

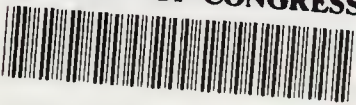
E

359

.25

2LB

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



00017908984

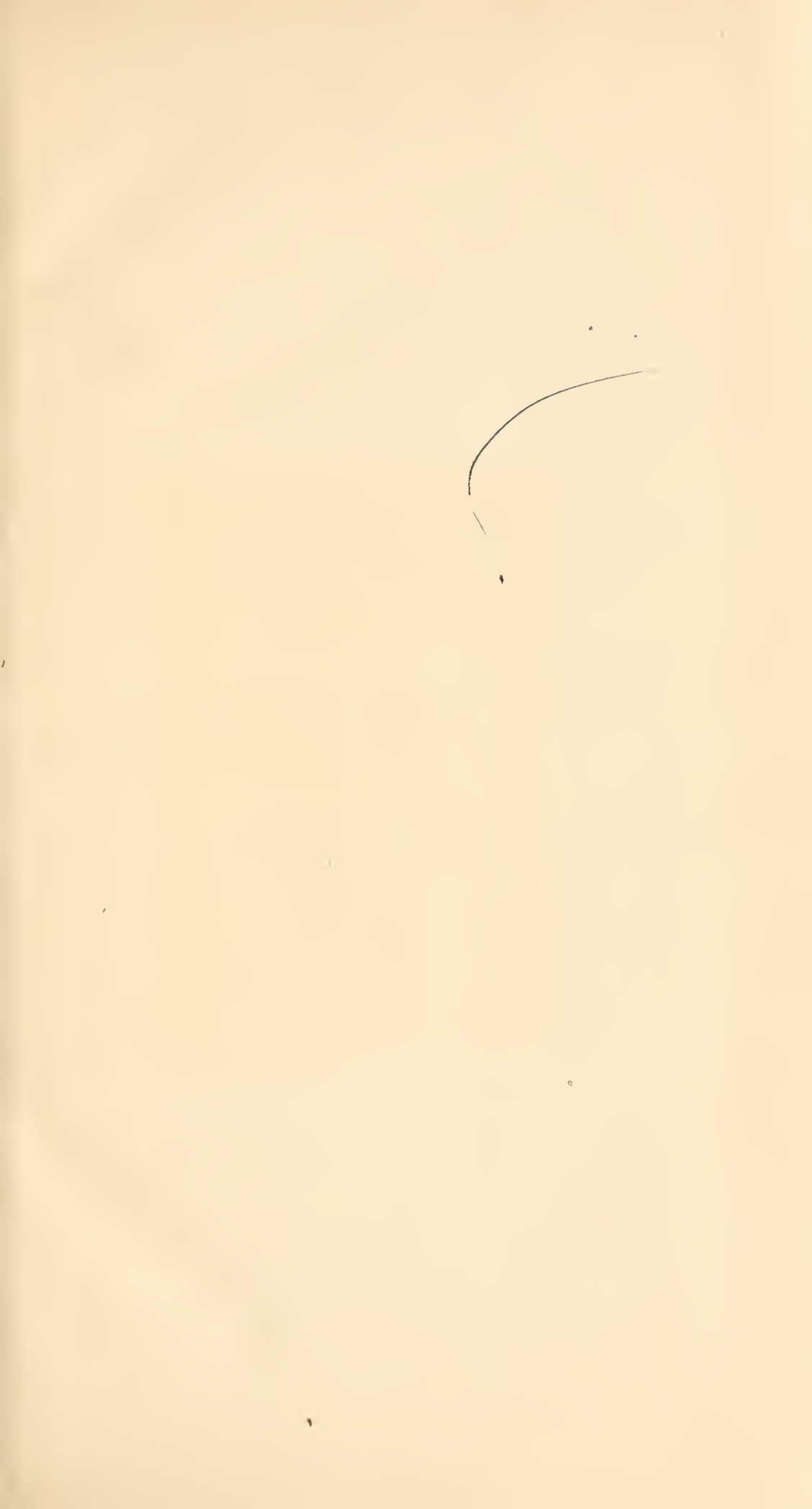




Class E 359

Book . 25

ed 73



REFUTATION OF CHARGES

EXHIBITED BY

SUNDRY OFFICERS

OF THE LATE

UNITED STATES' REGIMENT

OF

LIGHT DRAGOONS,

AGAINST

BREVET LT. COL. JAMES V. BALL,

OF THE SAME REGIMENT.

WITH REMARKS UPON THE MOTIVES OF HIS ACCUSERS, AND

THE NATURE OF THE

CHARGES AND THE EVIDENCE,

WITH

VARIOUS REFERENCES,

AND THE

OPINION OF THE COURT

APPOINTED TO ENQUIRE INTO THE SAID CHARGES.

WINCHESTER:

JOHN HEISKELL, PRINTER.

E359
.25
2d B

137242

9

REFUTATION OF CHARGES, &c.

IN laying before the public the following statements, so far as respects myself, I could have been content to remain silent; satisfied in having defeated the machinations of my enemies, and feeling assured that the consequent mortification under defeat, needs not the circumstance of greater publicity to add to its poignancy: but conceiving that the public have a right, and that it is especially the duty of public functionaries, to become acquainted with the manner in which the Officers of the Army have discharged their trust;—that the community has an interest also in the reputation of its servants, which, when assailed by false aspersions and malignant accusations, it is the duty of the accused to vindicate before their tribunal, I am induced to give the proceedings of the Court appointed to enquire into various charges against me the utmost publicity. On the 15th of December 1814, after the most cordial expressions of esteem towards me, Capt. Samuel G. Hopkins set out for Washington on furlough, and was the bearer of the following Memorial.

“ The honorable the Secretary of War.

“ SIR,

Having entered the corps of Dragoons from a preference to that species of service, frequently witnessing the abuses to which it has been subject, and the immense waste of public property incident thereon, we have deemed it a duty both to ourselves and country, fairly to represent our situation to your department, with a full confidence that whatever may seem reasonable in our complaint, will be attended to, while the pledges of our words of honor, that we are actuated by no such feelings will shield us from the imputation of private hostility, or the charge of insubordination.

To produce a change in our present situation and prospects; to alleviate the miseries of the one and heighten the hue of the

other, we deem it essential, not only to our efficiency, but existence as a corps.

We will attempt to lay these fully before you, and must be permitted to go back as far as the first day of August, when the two troops under the command of Captains Hopkins and Hall, were consolidated into a squadron, and arranged to the command of Brevet Lt. Col. Ball. At that period these troops were well supplied with every thing essential to the service, and wanted nothing but the knowledge of drill duties to be competent to contend with the enemy under any equal circumstances. This our commanding officer assured us should be in our possession immediately, declaring, in future, the rights of the Corps should be respected, and the abuses, hitherto imposed upon it, corrected. What was our amazement, when upon experiment, we ascertained he was utterly incompetent to command, that he was wholly deficient, as well in the knowledge of drill, as the most ordinary duties of our Corps, and permitted, from ignorance or a want of energy to prevent it, every inroad upon the rights of an infraction of the laws, in relation to the corps which have hitherto been practised with such glaring impunity and injury to the service;—suffering staff officers to detail at pleasure the men and horses, converting them into their own personal attendants and private uses, thus damping the pride the men would otherwise feel in their profession, and by divest it of a part of the means furnished it by Government for a different purpose, destroying the physical strength of the corps; these and many other such grievances have we suffered. This campaign having at length terminated, we expected to have been ordered into the interior, to a depot for the purpose of recruiting our men and horses, and preparing by regular drill for that of the next year; in this expectation we have also been disappointed.

After a detention of some weeks at Buffalo and its vicinity, during which time our horses were destitute of a covering, and starving for the want of forage, and our men almost naked, and not supplied with a sufficiency of tents, we are ordered to proceed to the Genessee River, there in the midst of the woods, convenient to no earthly comfort, to erect Stables and Barracks for the winter. How competent a corps of Dragoons, whose men are worn out with the exposure of a campaign, and horses reduced to the last extreme of poverty and requiring all their attention, are, to such an Herculean undertaking, you will presume at the slightest glance.

As it regards us, the duty is more severe, from the very partial supply of tools, plank, or the materials of any kind with

which we have been furnished, nor can we expect to complete the work until the winter shall have almost closed. Had we been ordered to Greenbush or Carlisle, where are both stables and barracks unoccupied, both our men and horses would now have been comfortable, instead of being destroyed by exposure and useless fatigues. We should have been engaged in drilling and disciplining our corps, have saved the government an immense expence in procuring building materials, (which hereafter must be useless,) procured forage as cheap, and more regularly, than at this place, and have been able to commence the next campaign under the most auspicious circumstances; nor is it now too late;—from this place to Albany is less than two hundred miles, and to Carlisle two hundred and thirty miles. Our petition is, that you will order us to one of the above places, for the purpose above expressed, from whence we shall be in the spring more convenient to any threatened point, except the Niagara frontier, (where, from the situation of the country our corps never can act) by several hundred miles than at this place.

From what we have said above, you must perceive we have lost all confidence in Lt. Col. Ball: that he has heretofore, by specious plausibility, succeeded in hoodwinking his commanding officer, and thereby obtaining a reputation to which his merits never entitled him, are facts which every days experience abundantly prove.

But pledging ourselves to establish, before any competent tribunal, what we have asserted, we could not have said less of him and satisfied our own consciences;—that it is with the greatest injury to the service, and the severest mortification to our individual feelings, we are now compelled to take his orders, we are constrained to acknowledge.

The sooner we are relieved from a situation fraught with such unpleasant circumstances, equally deliterious to our own and country's interest, the more grateful would we be for your interposition; which we earnestly request may be extended to us.

We have the honor to subscribe ourselves, most respectfully, your obedient servants.

S. G. HOPKINS,

Capt. U. S. Light Dragoons.

HENRY HALL,

Capt. U. S. Light Dragoons.

Lieut. GEORGE WATTS,

U. S. Light Dragoons.

Lieut. CLINTON WRIGHT.

U. S. Light Dragoons.

Lieut. PHILIP ANSPACH,

U. S. Light Dragoons.

Viewing Capt. Hopkins in that friendly light which his constant professions had induced me to do, I continued to write to him agreeably to his request at parting, until about the 6th of February following, when I received information from a friend, who had been at Washington, that attempts were making to injure me with the government, and that my own Officers, then at the City, were the principal actors in the plot. On the 8th of February I addressed a letter to Col. Monroe, from which the following are extracts.

“ Dragoon Cantonment,
Avon, N. York, 9th February, 1815.

“SIR,

I have just received information that some of my officers have made representations and statements to you, derogatory to my military character. The very grounds upon which they complain of me (for no other can they possibly have, than my undeviating efforts to reduce my command to discipline and system, and to establish in it that routine of duties, best calculated to render it respectable in itself, and honourable to its country,) marks their character. My orders requiring no more of them than proper attention to their duty, they have distorted into an assumption of power, an improper interference with their *commands*, and the imposition of Sergeant's duty on them. This duty is no other, than that of attending regularly at stable hours, to see that their horses are fairly dealt by, and that their men are expert, and properly instructed in grooming them; and this duty I assure you, was required of every Dragoon officer of the army in which I formerly served.—It is also the case in the French service. “The horses are to be fed at fixed hours, in presence of the officers on duty, and the Colonels and Captains must give all their attention to the care of their horses.” And after showing that I required no more of my officers, than the duties performed by those of the Revolution, I proceed, “and yet all their grievances are to be traced to this enormous demand, of proper attention to that important part of their commands;—although I impose precisely the same duty upon myself, and never fail to perform it. Can it, Sir, be rationally believed, that I would augment my own labours for the purpose of imposing unnecessary duties on my officers? Or how can my intention to degrade them, be inferred from the exaction of duties in which I participate?” Again, “If I am supported, I pledge myself to convert this corps into a subordinate, disciplined, and trained corps of Dragoons, with-

out losing sight of the rights of an individual, or the laws of my country."—[See appendix, (A)]

On the 16th I received the original memorial, and the following statement, which was evidently fabricated to supply the deficiency of weight in the memorial, and induce the Secretary of War to act upon it on his own responsibility.

"Washington, June 12, 1815.

"SIR,

In addition to the facts we have set forth in our memorial from Avon, New-York, we beg leave to observe, that when we left camp on the 15th Dec. the huts and stables were in a situation not to be finished in six weeks to come, Lieut. Col. Ball's quarters excepted, which would be ready for his reception in a few days; having almost exclusively employed our Carpenters for his own personal use;—and when from the Roster, the best men were not designated for his fatigue party, he would arbitrarily violate the order of detail as prescribed by the War Department, and cause his sergeant major to select from the several troops, such men as he chose, without regard to former tours of duty, or the suffering which, the snow every moment admonished us, the troops were encountering for want of shelter.

In answer to the frequent (almost daily) complaints, we made against the Quarter-Master's and Contractor's departments, for the deficiency and quality of the rations, of both forage and provisions, there was no remedy or interposition in our behalf.

After being more than a month at our present encampment, the men were not able to procure a sufficiency of soap to wash the clothing of a single squad, and were literally weltering in vermin and filth;—of this Capt. Hopkins frequently apprised Lt. Col. Ball to no purpose.

In addition to these hardships, we must be permitted to add, that the systematic cruelty which Lieut. Col. Ball is in the habit of practising upon the soldiery; his unfeeling apathy towards their complaints, and utter disregard to military usage in their punishments, tend to destroy every thing like that self respect, pride, and enthusiasm, so necessary to the usefulness and efficiency of the soldier.

To specify more particularly his conduct under this head, permit us to state, that frequent instances have occurred, where non-commissioned officers have been tried by Courts Martial, in conformity to his orders, and the proceedings of the Court ac-

accompanied by the evidence on which their opinion was founded, were presented to him, and although we remained eight and forty hours on that encamping ground, and the men were confined to a guard fire, without even a tent to cover them, notwithstanding several applications were made by Capt. Hall, to whose troop those non-commissioned officers were attached, for a promulgation of the sentence of the Court, our chief still persisted in continuing their confinement, and marched them two days under guard, and after his arrival at Fort Erie, gave an order that the prisoners in confinement should be released, without either approving or disapproving the sentence of the court, thereby wresting from the soldiery a right of trial, and usurping to himself the right to furnish at discretion, contrary to the judgment of the court, before whom the case was investigated. Again; he attached to his immediate command at Lake George, a detachment of dismounted Dragoons, commanded by Lieut. Wright, the aggregate of which we believe to have been about eighty present, and not one sick; that he in the most unprecedented and inhuman manner compelled them to march in front of the squadron, (at the regular gate of mounted troops,) keeping within a few feet of their rear, thereby compelling them to continue their stages, until the Dragoons stopped to feed and refresh their horses; and not permitting them (in conformity to the regulations of a dismounted corps on a march) to stop for the highly necessary purpose of watering and refreshing the men.

This treatment in a very few days, aided by the heat and the copious draughts of water taken when permitted to go to it, occasioned a severe diarrhoea in many of the men, the nature of which disease would be sufficient to convince any person acquainted with it, that men labouring under its pernicious effects would be considered incompetent to perform a march of any kind without reducing them to such a state of debility as would render them inefficient in the campaign, which was then about to commence.

In addition to which cruelty, he imposed on them the guard duty of the whole corps, keeping so extensive a camp guard, as to render it impracticable for the officer commanding, to make three reliefs of them, which we believe is the regular routine of duty in garrisons, and much less on common marches, and this too in the interior of our own country, when we were not within two hundred miles of any hostile armed force.

In addition to the above facts, permit us to subjoin, that, contrary to the known regulations of the army, he has usurped the right to select the best horses from the troop of Capt. Hop-

kins for his own private uses, which in one instance terminated in the loss of the horse to the government ;—and, Sir, we regret being constrained to observe, in farther elucidation of his conduct since he assumed the command of the squadron to which we were attached, that he actually sold to Lieut. Col. Appling, 1st Rifle Regiment, a public horse, which he, contrary to the established usage of the corps, had selected for his own purpose, without accounting to the government for the same.

S. G. HOPKINS,

Capt. U. S. Light Dragoons,

CLINTON WRIGHT,

Lieut. U. S. Light Dragoons.

Immediately after the receipt of these papers, which were forwarded through the Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, and endorsed "*Forwarded to Lt. Col. Ball, to give him an opportunity to ask for a Court of Inquiry if he wishes it.*" I addressed a note to Col. Pierce, the then commanding officer of the division, to which I was attached, and received through his acting Adjutant and Inspector General, the following answer.

"Adjutant General's Office,
Buffalo, February 19, 1815.

"DEAR SIR,

"Colonel Pierce declines acting upon your application for a Court of Enquiry, for two reasons;—first, he doubts his authority to order one, and secondly there are not a sufficient number of officers (of the proper character) to constitute the Court at this place.

I am not surprised to hear that your officers have complained of you. From what I have *seen and heard* of some of them, I believe that they are capable of doing any thing which gentlemen should not do.

Believe me your friend,
and obedient servant.

J. SNELLING."

"LIEUT. COL. BALL,
Light Dragoons."

On the 19th, I addressed to the Adjutant and Inspector General the following note.

" Dragoon Cantonment,
Avon, N. Y. 19th Feb. 1815.

" SIR,

" I received your inclosure, post-marked the 30th ultimo, on the 16th inst. and as col. Pierce is at present in command of the Division in the absence of Gen. Izard, I immediately applied to him for a Court of Enquiry. I beg that any unfavorable impressions which may have been excited against me, may be suspended until after the Court.

I have the honor to be,

very respectfully,

your obedient servant.

JAMES V. BALL,

Lt. Colonel."

" *Adjutant and Inspector General.*

D. PARKER, *Washington City."*

On the 22d I addressed Gen. Izard on the subject, and received the following answer.

" Philadelphia, March 4th, 1815.

Lieut. Col. BALL,

DEAR SIR,

" I received yesterday your letter of the 22d ult.— The one you addressed to me at Washington has not come to hand; I wrote by this day's post to have it forwarded to me.

The charges you mention as adduced against you, ought to give you no uneasiness. If you have not yet sent a copy of them to me, I wish you would do so as soon as possible. The state of the squadron under your command has been represented to the Secretary at War, and will be investigated by the proper Department, as soon as the present press of business shall allow time to attend to it.

I am with esteem and regard, Dear Sir, your obedient servant.

GEO. IZARD."

On the 27th I wrote again to the Adjutant and Inspector General, as follows :

" Dragoon Cantonment,
Avon, N. Y. 27th, Feb. 1815.

SIR,

Since I did myself the honor of addressing you, I have received an answer from the acting Adjutant and Inspector

General; Colonel Snelling, in which he states that Col. Pierce, for two reasons, viz. doubting his power, and secondly, the want of officers, declines ordering the Court of Enquiry, solicited by me. I immediately wrote to maj. gen. Izard, and directed to Philadelphia, (as I had been instructed by him to do,) begging the indulgence of an investigation as soon as the impediments to it can be removed. If this application fails, I beg, sir, that through the medium of your interference, I may be indulged with an opportunity before a Court of Enquiry of *experienced Officers*, to prove that the charges exhibited against me are false; which I pledge my life, and every thing dear to me is a fact. Having it completely in my power, when ever this opportunity is afforded me, to shew that there is not even the semblance of truth in either of them, the motives, with which the charges were laid before the Secretary of War, will be evident.

I have the honor to be, respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES V. BALL."

Maj. L. D. & Lt. Col. U. S. Army."

To the above I received no answer. On the 25th of March I repeated my application to Gen. Izard, and received the following answer:

"Philadelphia, April, 8th, 1815.

"Lt. Col. J. V. Ball,
U. S. Light Dragoons.

"DEAR SIR,

"I received last evening your letter of the 25th ult. accompanying a copy of the paper addressed to the Secretary at War, by Capt. Hopkins, and other officers of your squadron. The present state of the War-office is not favorable to a speedy arrangement of difficulties like the one in question. I would, however, advise you to visit the seat of government, in order to prevent prejudices being established to your disadvantage.—To enable you to do this, I enclose a leave of absence, of which (if you think proper to make use of it,) you will give notice to the Adjutant General at Buffalo, and to the Adjutant and Inspector General at Washington.

I am with esteem and regard, Dear Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

GEO. IZARD.

" Philadelphia, April 8th, 1815.

" Lt. Col. J. V. BALL,
U. S. Light Dragoons.

" SIR,

" You have leave to be absent from the detachment under your command, and proceed to the City of Washington, where you will report your arrival to the Adjutant and Inspector General.

Your most obedient servant,

GEO. IZARD,

Maj. Gen. Comd'g. 9th Military Dist."

Not content with merely removing prejudices, which might have been conceived against me at the War Department, and determined to spare no pains to obtain what I had a right in justice to demand, I addressed to Gen. Brown the following note, to which I received no answer.

" Dragoon Cantonment,
Avon, 23d April, 1815.

" SIR,

" Accusations against me were some time ago exhibited at the War Office, and forwarded from thence, (as was stated,) to give me an opportunity to apply for a Court of Enquiry, if I wished it. Neither General Izard or yourself were at the time in the District. I immediately applied to Col. Pierce, and was answered by the Inspector General, that the Colonel declined ordering a Court of Enquiry for two reasons, viz: doubting his power and the want of officers. I then wrote to Gen. Izard at Philadelphia, and received the following answer:—
" The state of the squadron under your command has been represented to the War Department, and will be investigated by the proper department, as soon as the present press of business shall allow time to attend to it." I wrote also to the Adjutant and Inspector General Parker; praying that through his interference, (if I failed elsewhere,) I might be indulged with an opportunity before a Court of Enquiry to prove the fallacy of the accusations against me—but he has not even answered me. I am now, Sir, constrained to trouble you upon the subject, and beg the indulgence and justice of an investigation. It will be attended with but little expense, and is a matter of high importance to my feelings and character.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

JAMES V. BALL,
Lt, Col. U. S. Army."

*His Ex. Maj. Gen. JACOB BROWN,
Sackett's Harbor."*

On the 17th of April, I wrote to Col. Snelling, the Assistant Adjutant and Inspector General as follows :

" I feel inexpressible mortification at the neglect with which my application for an Enquiry has been treated—the officer who has served ten years with reputation, is certainly entitled to the notice and attention of his government,—when he requires only what he has a right to demand, to shield that reputation against the foul aspersions of his unprincipled accusers."

On the 25th I received the following answer from Colonel Snelling.

" Buffalo, April 23d, 1815.

" DEAR SIR,

" I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th inst. by the last mail. The Adjutant and Inspector General informed me, your application for a Court of Enquiry would be acted upon, on the return of the Acting Secretary of War to Washington ;—if an opportunity offers, please to send Rufus Hill to the general Hospital at Williamsville.

With the highest respect, &c.

J. SNELLING,

Ass. Adj. Gen."

" Lt. Col. BALL, *Light Dragoons.*"

This, however, was the last I heard on the subject from that quarter. On the 7th of May, I wrote as follows to the Acting Adjutant and Inspector General, Col. Snelling.

" Dragoon Cantonment,
Avon, 7th May, 1815.

" DEAR SIR,

" The grounds, upon which the objections, to order the Court of Enquiry solicited by me, were predicated, have ceased to exist.

Col. Pierce is at present in command of the District, and there are a sufficient number of field officers with the division, to form a Court.—I therefore beg leave, through you, to renew my solicitation in the warmest terms, as a circumstance of the

highest importance to my feelings and character, and to the service.

Please to favor me with a speedy answer.

I am, Dear Sir, &c.

JAMES V. BALL,

Lt. Col. U. S. Army."

" Col. JOSIAH SNELLING,

Adj. and Insp. Gen. Buffalo."

The following is his answer.

" Adjutant General's Office,

Buffalo, 10th May, 1815.

" At the request of Lieut. Col. Ball. of the corps of Dragoons, a Court of Enquiry will assemble on Monday the fifteenth inst. at Hosmer's Tavern, in Avon, or at such other place in that vicinity, as the President may direct, to examine into certain charges contained in an informal complaint, addressed to the honorable Secretary of War, by Capt. Samuel G. Hopkins and other Officers of that corps; and other reports in circulation to the injury of his reputation; the Court will report their opinion in the case to the commanding officer.

Col. ROBERT PURDY, *4th Inf. President.*

Major W. MORGAN, *12th Inf. and*

Major H. GRINDAGE, *15th Inf. Members.*

Lieut. ROBERT RUFFIN, *Recorder.*

By order of Col. C. PEARCE, *Commanding Division.*

J. SNELLING, *Act. Adj. General."*

On the 15th of April, the Court of Enquiry convened at Hosmer's Hotel, conformably to an order of the 10th,—when my accusers, driven from the dark design of secretly stabbing my reputation, to which they had been invited by General Armstrong's practice of striking from the rolls of the army the names of officers, upon the bare information of such as thought proper to give it, and not willing to risk the result with a Court on oath, upon charges which they thought sufficient for a Secretary of War, under the influence of two members of Congress, to wit, the fathers of Hopkins and Wright, to act upon. (and in which, owing to a change of Secretary's, they were deceived, their ingenuity was resorted to, and tortured to fabricate others of more serious nature, and at so remote a period and distance from the place of trial, as they hoped would render their confutation impracticable—but the infamy of their design was evident; and as the first intimation I received of the existence of

such charges, was at the moment of laying them on the Court table; and as they formed no part of the original complaint upon which the Court of Enquiry was instituted, although the circumstances upon which they were predicated, were as fully in possession of my accusers at the time of drawing the memorial, and of writing the additional statement signed by Hopkins and Wright, as they were on the day of trial, the Court decreed, that it would not enter upon the investigation of such charges unless the accused was prepared or gave his consent to it.—Conscious of the rectitude of my conduct, I felt no hesitation in consenting to an investigation of my whole military life, satisfied that although I should necessarily be deprived of many witnesses by whom my innocence could have been proved, it would be impossible for my accusers, without the aid of perjury, to establish against me even the semblance of crime. The Court then proceeded to enquire into the following charges, and the complaints set forth in the above memorial.

Charge 1st.—Fraud and embezzlement of public property.

Specification 1st.—For that, on or about the—day of August 1814, he the said Lieut. Col. James V. Ball, did receive a number of public horses; purchased for the use of the squadron of United States Light Dragoons, under his (the said lieut. col. Ball's) command, by Major John Bleeker, Deputy Qr. M. General, and, instead of converting all the said horses to the use above mentioned, he did retain one horse in his (the said lieut. col. Ball's) possession, for the purpose of selling him (the said horse) to lieut. col. Appling of the 1st Rifle Regiment; which horse he the said lieut. col. Ball did sell to lieut. col. Appling, receiving and appropriating the money received for the said horse to his, the said lieut. col. Ball's own private use; thereby defrauding the United States out of the amount which had originally been paid by the said Major Bleeker for the said horse, as well as defrauding them (the United States) of the services of the horse in the campaign then pending; all these proceedings being contrary to law, and in direct opposition to the regulations of the War Department in relation to Dragoon horses.

Specification 2d.—For, that he the said lieut. col. Ball, did make out, and certify, upon honor, an unjust and false account at Sackett's Harbor in the state of New-York, on or about the day of January, 1814, for services rendered, and emoluments due from the United States, for a considerable portion of the year 1813; while he (the said lieut. col. Ball) was attached to the North Western army there, under the command of Major General Harrison;—in this, that he (the said lieut. col. Ball) did

charge the United States for forage for *four horses*, for the month of March, 1813, and ten days in the month of April 1813, as also did charge for the said article of forage for three horses, from the 11th of April, 1813, to the 20th of May 1813, as also did charge for the said article of forage for four horses, from the 21st May, 1813, to the 21st July 1813, and also did charge for the said article of forage for four horses, from the 21st of July, 1813, to the 31st of December, 1813, the whole of the days inclusive, and did receive payment at the legal rate of forage per horse, per month, for the whole number of charges above recited, from lieut. Rees, of the corps of Artillery, assistant deputy pay master general; when it is a fact equally true as notorious, that he (the said lt. col. Ball) did never at any period during his service in the North Western Army, aforesaid, own, and keep in service, four private horses; on the other hand he, the said lt. col. Ball, did never have, as his own individual property, more than two horses, one of which was, during the whole time, above expressed, as charged for, either said to be lame or sick; he the said lieut. col. Ball generally, almost invariably, riding either a borrowed or public horse. Thus, in the charge aforesaid, fraudulently claiming and receiving emoluments, to which he was not entitled, and certifying *upon honor* to statements utterly unfounded and false.

“ Charge 2d.

*“ Specification 1st—*Conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman;—for that, on or about the 30th of July, 1813, he the said lieut. col. Ball did make an unjust, and false report, of a skirmish with a small party of hostile Indians, on the River Sandusky in the state of Ohio, a few miles above Fort Stephenson, to Major General Harrison, then commander in chief of the North Western Army; thereby extolling his own, and virtually censuring the conduct of the other officers engaged in it; declaring that he (the said lieut. col. Ball) did kill the first Indian forty yards in front of the squadron, with his own sword, when all, who were present, know it to be a fact that he, the said lieut. col. Ball, was not in front during the charge; and that he the said lieut. col. Ball did not come further than the spot where the first Indian fell, until after the skirmish had ceased; and had no agency in conducting the charge;—thus inducing Major General Harrison to make a partial and false representation of the skirmish to the War Department, whereby manifest injustice was done to the officers and soldiers concerned in it.

*“ Specification 2nd—*For that, on or about the 12th of December 1814, he (the said Lieut. Col. Ball) at Avon in the

State of New York, did cause his Sergeant Major, after receiving the number of men required by his order for a fatigue party, for his (the said Lieut. Col. Ball's) personal use, agreeable to the Roster of the respective Troops, to dismiss them and immediately select the best men and mechanics to work upon his (the said Lieut. Col. Ball's) own building in the cantonment, at the place aforesaid, thereby wresting from the respective Troops, the known and established usage of making details, agreeably to their Roster, and placing the same in the hands of the Sergeant Major, contrary to the order of detail prescribed by the War Department, without regard to former tours of duty, or the sufferings of the almost naked soldiery, whom the continual snow every moment admonished him required immediate and comfortable shelters.

Specification 3rd—For that, from the commencement of the building of the cantonment at Avon New York, in the month of November 1814, to its completion, in the last of January 1815, he (the said Lieut. Col. Ball) did utterly neglect or cause an Hospital, or other place, to be erected, for the accommodation of the sick, and the Hospital which was ultimately erected was not finished until some time after the completion of the Stables and Huts, and long after the (said Lieut. Col. Ball) had been comfortably situated in his most spacious and numerous apartments; thereby subjecting the sick to the want of shelter through two of the most inclement months in the winter, to the imminent hazard of their lives, and contrary to the positive orders of the Secretary of War, injoining upon all commanding Officers to make the care of the sick the first and most important duty.

Specification 4th—In treating the Officers of the Squadron under his (the said Lt. Col. Ball's) command between the 8th of November, 1814, and the 30th of April 1815 in a contemptuous and unofficerlike manner, thereby tending to lower their estimation and authority in the opinion of the Soldiery, whereby insubordination must necessarily result.

Specification 5th—On the 6th of January 1815, in treating three commissioned Officers, and a sword Master, belonging to a Squadron under his (the said Lt. Col. Ball's) command, in an ungentlemanly manner, when the said Officers were unfortunately engaged in a dispute with some citizens of Seneca, Ontario County and State of New York; in publicly declaring to the citizens, that he cared nothing about the Officers; that if they got into difficulty they might get out the best way they could. Thereby evincing a contemptuous proceeding towards the said Officers (then in the custody of the civil authority) to whose faces he (he the said Lieut. Col. Ball) professed every degree of

friendship ; which character is unbecoming an officer or a gentleman.

Specification 6th—That between the 6th of January and the 21st of February 1815, the said officers (lieut. Anspach excepted) procured bail from confinement, on their own responsibility, and returned to duty ; when they arrived at the Dragoon Cantonement at Avon, lieut. col. Ball confined them to the camp, and thereby precluded them of the privilege of obtaining the necessary witnesses, for their approaching trial, putting them to serious inconveniences and subjecting them to heavy penalties, which proceeding evidenced a disposition to harrass the officers, evidently for the purpose of gaining, at their expence, self popularity amongst the citizens ; such conduct, and particularly in a commanding officer, being unbecoming an officer or a gentleman.

Specification 7th—For that on or about the — day of October 1814, he (the said lieut. col. Ball) did act in a most unofficer-like, if not cowardly, manner, while the squadron under his command were crossing the Niagara river ; in this, that (he the said lieut. col. Ball) upon ascertaining that a party of the enemy had come within view of the squadron aforesaid, and had reconnoitered the position of the same, did precipitately abandon his command, and put himself into a boat and betook himself to the opposite (to wit the American) side of the said river, leaving two thirds of the men and horses, and all the waggons of the said squadron exposed to an attack without giving instructions or orders of any kind to the senior officer left with the said squadron, who did not succeed in crossing the said river until 12 o'clock at night, and in consequence of the violence of the rain and storm, and the extreme darkness of the night, was upon his own responsibility compelled to prevent the farther attempts to cross the said river and send the remainder of the said horses and men back to Fort Erie for protection.

Specification 8th—In not supporting the officers of the squadron under his, the said Lieut. Col. Ball's, command in the execution of their duty, by encouraging the soldiers to report their officers to him (the said Lieut. Col. Ball) on every frivolous pretext, and on the 29th March, at the cantonment Avon New York, when Cornet John Caldwell arrested Sergeant Whitaker of Captain Halls Troop, on a charge of disobedience of orders, and insolent, and disrespectful behaviour to the said cornet Caldwell, he the said lieut. col. Ball, released the said sergeant Whitaker, notwithstanding a Court Martial was at that very time assembled before whom the case could have been investigated, such conduct being unmilitary, and directly tend-

ing to promote a spirit of disobedience and contempt of authority, and to destroy subordination and discipline.

Specification 9th.—In this,—that, on or about the 24th of January 1815, he the said lieut. col. Ball, did compel the blacksmith of capt. Hall's troop, together with a private, as his assistant, to perform daily fatigue at a shop in the neighborhood of the Cantonment, over and above the duties required by the said troop, for a considerable length of time, and when remonstrated to by capt. Hall, against the injustice of an order which virtually compelled these men to do the work of the other troops, to wit those of capt. Hopkins and Harris, (both of which were supplied with blacksmiths who, were ready and competent to do their work,) not taking any notice of the said remonstrance, but arbitrarily persisting in continuing the said blacksmiths at hard labour to the injury of the services and the manifest injustice of the individuals thus ordered.

Specification, 10th.—In this that he (the said lieut. col. Ball) utterly disregarding the known military principle of causing details for service, to come through the channels of the officers commanding troops, has, between the 15th of December and 30th of April 1815, repeatedly ordered men himself, or caused his orderly sergeant or sergeant major to order the privates of troops upon duty, without ever deigning to inform the officers commanding said troops that such men had been so ordered.

Charge 3d.—Inhumanity and cruelty to the soldiery.

Specification, 1st.—For that on or about the — day of October 1813, causing the troop under the command of capt. Hopkins to march from Buffaloe N. Y. on foot to Fort George in the province of Upper Canada, a distance of upwards of thirty miles, notwithstanding it was made known to him the said lieut. col. Ball, that a number of the men were without shoes, and the whole were thinly clad, having been compelled to leave their baggage four weeks before, on an island in Lake Erie, from whence they never received it, there being at the same time a sufficiency of boats to transport the troops aforesaid, and the whether being both cold and inclement, in consequence of which severe treatment and exposure, several of the said men died after their arrival at Fort George, and a great number were made sick and afterwards became prisoners at the surrender of Fort Niagara.

Specification 2d.—For that on or about the first week in September 1814 he the said lieut. col. Ball, being on the march from Chazy in the state of New-York to Buffaloe, and having attached to his command a detachment of dismounted dragoons,

commanded by lieuts. Wright and Elbert, the aggregate of which detachment amounted, when they commenced their march, to about eighty in number, all present, and not one sick;—that he, the said lieut. col. Ball, did in the most unprecedented manner compel the said dismounted detachment to march in front of the mounted squadron, at the ordinary gate of horsemen, starting on or about the same time, and the front of the said mounted squadron keeping within a few feet of the rear of the said dismounted detachment, permitting the said dismounted men to have no intermission or rest, until the regular feeding hours of the horsemen arrived, without ever suffering them to stop to procure water or other refreshments or gratify the ordinary calls of nature.—The large draughts of water, taken in consequence of long privation and excessive fatigue, when it could be obtained,—added to the intense heat of the season, occasioned a severe diarrhoea in the men which caused many of them to be so debilitated as to be utterly unfit for the service of the campaign, if not for ever ruined in their constitutions. To which inhumanity towards the said dismounted detachment, he superadded the duty of the whole camp guard of the squadron, keeping up such a number of sentinels as to render it impracticable for the officer commanding to form three reliefs, less than the regular routine in garrisons;—and this too in the interior of their own country.

“*Specification 3d.*—For that on or about the day of October 1814, at Batavia in the state of New-York, he, the said lieut. col. Ball did order sergeant Lucadoe, corporal Wade, and two privates into confinement who were immediately, by his the said lieut. col. Ball's order, tried by a court martial on charges preferred against them, and the decision of the court together with the record of the testimony on which it was formed, were regularly laid before him, the said lieut. col. Ball, for his sanction which, instead of granting, notwithstanding the whole of the accused were honorably acquitted, he the said lieut. col. Ball, persisted in keeping the said sergeant Lucadoe, Corporal Wade and the two privates confined to a guard-fire, without a tent to cover them, although the weather was exceedingly inclement, and the squadron remained two days thereafter upon that encamping ground, and several applications were made by Capt. Hall to whose troop the non-commissioned officers and men belonged, for a promulgation of the sentence of the court martial, he the said lieut. col. Ball, still persisted in continuing their confinement, and caused them to march two days under guard and not until after the arrival of the squadron at Fort-Erie in Upper Canada, did he cause them to be enlarged, and then without either approving the sentence of the court or making known the same either to the prisoners or the squadron, thereby wresting

from the soldiery the right of trial, guaranteed by the laws, usurping to himself the privilege of punishing, at discretion, non-commissioned officers and men under his the said lieutenant-col. Ball's command, and this too contrary to the judgment of a court martial before whom the case had been maturely investigated.

*"Specification 4th—*For that, on or about the day of January 1815, in the cantonment at Avon, in the state of New-York, he (the said lieutenant-col. Ball) did confine sergeant Ebenezer Jones of capt. Hopkins' troop of light dragoons, to the black hole, for eight days and nights, without having filed a charge against him, the said sergeant Jones, with orders to the non-commissioned officers commanding the guard, not to permit the said sergeant Jones to receive any comfort whatever, his rations excepted, or to have the privilege of even speaking to or conversing with any person, and then did finally discharge the said sergeant Jones from the said confinement, without bringing him before a Court Martial, or even deigning to state upon what grounds he the said sergeant Jones had thus been so severely and cruelly punished.

*"Specification 5th—*In not permitting the men under his, the said lieutenant-col. Ball's command, to have a single day of rest, or to wash their clothes and make themselves clean, from the 15th of November 1814, until the 25th January, 1815, with the exception of one day at Christmas, keeping them (the men composing his command) the whole of that period upon hard labour, every individual, the sick only excepted, being upon duty, notwithstanding it was made known to him that their clothes were rotten with filth, and their bodies covered with vermin.

*"Charge 4th—*Neglect of duty.

*"Specification 1st—*That from the 8th of November 1814, until the 30th of April 1815, he, lieutenant-col. Ball, never made his appearance on the parade, thereby exhibiting to the officers and men under his, the said lieutenant-col. Ball's, command, an example of idleness and inattention, prejudicial to the public service, and contrary to the rules and articles of war.

*"Specification 2nd—*In neglecting to drill his, the said lieutenant-col. Ball's, squadron from the 8th November 1814 until the 30th April 1815, thereby evincing either a want of capacity, or a want of zeal for the public service, highly injurious to the credit of the squadron—under his, the said lieutenant-col. Ball's, command and to the service.

*"Specification 3rd—*In allowing the squadron under his (the said lieutenant-col. Ball's) command, between the 8th of November 1814 and the 30th April 1815, to suffer extreme hardships and inconvenience by not permitting a requisition to be forwarded for the necessary articles of clothing, camp equipage and Caval-

ry equipments, absolutely necessary, notwithstanding being repeatedly requested so to do, by the Regimental Quarter Master.

*"Specification 4th—*For that, between the 15th of November 1814 and the 1st of February 1815, failing, notwithstanding that he, the said lieut. col. Ball, had been repeatedly required, as commanding officer, to interfere to cause the contractor to furnish the complete rations to the United States troops at Avon New-York, leaving them without the important article of soap for months at a time, and after it had been explicitly stated to him, the said lieut. col. Ball, that the men were experiencing the most disagreeable sensations, and suffering extreme inconvenience from the filth and vermin with which they were covered.

*ad. "Charge 5th—*Incapacity to command a squadron of Dragoons.

*"Specification 1st—*On or about the 15th of August 1814, at the parade ground of Gen. Macomb's brigade, near Chazy in the state of New York, he the said lieut. col. Ball, did undertake to manœuvre the squadron of Dragoons under his command, and attempt manœuvres, and give words of command, inapplicable to the Dragoon service, contrary to the precepts of all military authors who have written on the subject, and unintelligible to both officers and men.

*"Specification 2nd—*In exposing himself and the corps, to the ridicule and contempt of Major Gen. Brown, at Fort Erie, in Upper Canada, on or about the day of October, 1814, by declaring to the General aforementioned, that his, lieut. col. Ball's Dragoons, were competent to charge in line, and act efficiently against the enemy, any where through the swamps and woods of Upper Canada.

*"Specification 3d—*In ordering the whole of the commissioned officers to attend all stable parades, and remain at the stables during the performance of stable duties—thereby not only subjecting them to execute the duty of non-commissioned officers, but exposing them to the contempt and ridicule of the soldiers.

*"Specification 4th—*That between the 8th of November, 1814, and 30th of April 1815, he the said lieut. col. Ball, has frequently animadverted upon the conduct and to the injury of the characters of the officers of the squadron of which he is the commanding officer, thereby setting an example of calumny when it was his, the said lieut. col. Ball's duty, to hold forth an example of unanimity and candor by the suppression of under hand representations, or listening to, or countenancing reports, made through any but an official channel, thereby rendering the service disagreeable and vexatious to the officers, and producing injury to the service.

Specification 5th—In taking sergeant Whitaker, of captain Hall's troop, ostensibly as an orderly, and causing him, the said sergeant Whitaker, to perform the menial duties of a servant, notwithstanding he, the said sergeant Whitaker, is regularly mustered and paid as a sergeant—thereby shewing an ignorance of the importance of reputation to a non-commissioned officer, but degrading his character and essentially injury the service.

HENRY HALL,

Capt. U. S. Light Dragoons.

H. STERLING, *Lieut. Dragoons.*

PHILIP ANSPACH, *Lt. Dragoons.*

JOHN CALDWELL, *Cornet Dragoons.*

Before I present the result of this enquiry, I beg the indulgence of the reader, upon the motives of my accusers, and the nature of the charges and the evidence.—On the first of June 1814 I took command of, and issued an order comprising rules and regulations for, the United States Cavalry then at Plattsburg New-York.—[*See appendix A,*] This order was reiterated on the 17th of August, after Captains Hopkins and Hall had joined my command, & in several instances violated it.—[*See Appendix B.*] The frequent violations of it by Capt. Hall, induced me to arrest him, and from that arrest he was liberated upon his assurance, through sundry gentlemen, that in future he would respect and obey my orders.—His resentment, however, did not subside, nor did he regard the pledge he had given, or keep his promise inviolate. He immediately set his ingenuity to work, to form a party against me, and it is not wonderful that he should have succeeded, from the peculiar characters and circumstances of those with whom he was associated.—Capt. Hopkins knew me to be in possession of the fact, that two horses which he kept and claimed as his private property, were public Dragoon horses, purchased and used as such, in my squadron in 1812, and one of which had been so used and considered, until he arrived at the Dragoon encampment in Avon New-York, in November 1814 [*See appendix C.*]—He knew that I had pried into the circumstance of his having converted leather, drawn avowedly for the use of his Troop, to his own use, and he felt high resentment at being constrained by my order above alluded to, to attend three times a day to the stable duties of his Troop. This was a principal source, and one of the original causes, of the mutinous and disorderly conduct and feelings of my officers. The leading characters among them were perhaps less patient under this order, from the circumstance of their influential connections in congress, who it

was natural to suppose were ready to palliate their faults, if any were alledged against them. For, upon this influence, it appears they chose rather to rely for redress of the imagined grievance, than upon the only correct course (a military enquiry.) Lieut. Wright's motives are to be found in the discountenance I gave his frequent riots and misconduct, towards the citizens of the country through which we marched, from Lake George to Buffalo, New-York—in my order to reduce the issues of forage to him to his legal allowance, when it was reported to me that he was feeding five horses at public expense, at Avon New York ;---and the total ignorance of his profession, which kept him in the dark with respect to the rights and authority of a commanding officer.—It was thus that he was subjected to arrest at Lake George, on the charge of mutiny, unofficerlike, and ungentlemanly conduct ; the proceedings on which were quashed, only on account of the informality of being drawn up without specifying the time and place, and which produced the following general order.

“ Head-Quarters Right-wing N. Army.

Sacketts Harbour }

17th September 1814. }

GENERAL ORDERS.

Lieut. Wright, light Dragoons, was arraigned on charges of mutiny, unofficerlike, and ungentlemanly conduct, before the general court martial of which col. Peirce is President, but in consequence of the informality with which the charges were framed, the court decided they should be quashed. The commanding General approves the decision of the general court-martial, whereof col. Pierce is President, though he cannot withhold the expression of censure upon the carelessness with which the charges were submitted, in a case of so serious a nature, involving in its consequences the character, and even life of an officer.—An order is in preparation, for the government of the Judge-Advocates, or those acting in that capacity, which will render them responsible for the correctness of the proceedings of courts martial.—Lt. Wright of light Dragoons is released from arrest, and will return to duty.—The General Court Martial of which col. Peirce is President is dissolved.”—This order was signed by Gen. Izard.—Or perhaps Mr. Wright might have found a stronger motive for his attempts to get me removed from service, from the opinion expressed by me, against the right of officers to exchange inferior private horses for public ones of more value, and claim them as private property.

I can only look for the motives of Lt. Watts in that unblush-

ing impudence which supplies the place of departed honor, and those feelings that induce a certain description of men to side with what they think the strongest party.—He never served with me until my arrival at Fort Erie, on the 9th of October 1814, nor did he remain with me longer than a few days after I recrossed the Niagara river, on the 29th of the same month ; having reported sick and obtained leave to take up his residence in a tavern.—Yet he has signed the memorial, pledging himself for the support of facts stated in it, to have existed as far back as the first of August 1814, of which he did not, nor could know any thing.—Nor is it probable from his habitual drunkenness, that he knew any thing more of the memorial than that he had signed it.—The motives of Sterling, Anspach and Caldwell, are further to be traced to their want of intelligence, and of those principles which characterise the gentleman.—No better evidence of this is necessary, than their wanton outrage in Lima N. York, for which they were imprisoned and fined.—And because I did not justify their disgraceful conduct on that occasion (which for the honor of the service I most sincerely lamented.) I am charged with evincing a contemptuous proceeding towards the said officers.—These men were recently raised from the ranks of the army, and whatever Gen. Armstrong, or others, may say or think to the contrary, the experience of the late war, has sufficiently established, that mere promotion cannot remedy deficiency of intellect, or want of principle.—Anspach and Caldwell, as destitute of independence, as of mind, dared not oppose the will of their captains ; and the promise of less duty in the event of success, was inducement sufficiently strong, to draw them into any pledge that might be dictated.

Lt. Stirling did not join the combination, until after I had threatened to arrest him for drunkenness and misconduct, and which he knew I only delayed from the extreme scarcity of officers.

The combination having increased to the number of six, commenced its attack on the 4th of December 1814, in the above secret memorial, (designed only for the eye of the Secretary of War, and such as they hoped to draw into their plot,) fraught with falsehood, and sanctioned by a solemn pledge to establish for truth, those falsehoods thus preferred. In what manner the pledge has been redeemed, the public will, I confidently trust, judge as the Court has done. It will be seen that my accusers have been the witnesses against me—being by the late period at which the charges were preferred against me, deprived of the opportunity of testimony, which might have been more satisfactory if necessary—thus labouring for their *own purposes*, to ef-

fect by their *own oaths* a redemption of that pledge, and gratification of their malice. It might be sufficient for me to refer to the charges and acquittal of the court, but I hope however I shall be pardoned for here noticing the absurdity and want of candor, exhibited by the authors of the memorial. In it I am charged with the detention of my squadron at Buffalo, with its removal to Genessee river, and the erection of stables and barracks.—Will the most ignorant and mutinous among my accusers, pretend to say, it was criminal in me, thus to obey the orders of my immediate commanding general? [Izard] Or can the evidence of the fact fail to appear to a reader, that the object of this *mutinous band*, in its impertinent dictation to the Secretary of War, was to obtain a situation more favorable to its views of dissipation and pleasure?—and not for the important purpose of “drilling and preparing for the next campaign,” as stated—particularly, as at neither of the places designated in their memorial, were there *vacant* barracks or stables for the accommodation of the squadron. Deprived of the testimony of lieut. col. Appling, which would have been conclusive on the subject of the horse, I offered to the Court, the following official letters of Majors Rees and Bleeker—they were rejected—I give them however to the public, in addition to that testimony, upon which the court were satisfied of the purity and fairness of the transaction.

“Troy, February 24th, 1815.

“DEAR SIR,

“Your letter of the 17th inst. came to my hands this morning,—and I lose no time in reply, to state to you, that I well recollect, that at the time you paid me for the cast horse purchased by you at public sale, you expressed your regret that from the circumstance of your not having received in some time, it was out of your power to pay for the horse received from major Bleeker, on which I replied that it then was of no consequence, as the Major had probably charged your obligation in his account, to be rendered to the accountant of the War Department, which, in that case, would allow you more time, understanding that General Izard directed these obligations to be made payable to major Bleeker, or the accountant of the War Department.

At your request I was to have purchased two horses for you, when I made the purchase of the forty horses ordered for your squadron; but as the public service required my attention to other objects, major Bleeker undertook and made the purchase of these Horses, of whom you made the same request to purchase two for you. I have no knowledge of any transac-

tion with major Appling, nor do I recollect the amount y. was to pay major Bleeker for the Horse in question. He has gone South of this, but will probably return soon, when I will communicate your wish, to have his understanding of this transaction.

I am dear sir, &c.

(Signed)

JAMES REES,
Dep'ty. Qu'r. Master General."

P. S. The court martial is yet engaged with general Wilkinson, but it is the prevailing opinion he will be honorably acquitted.

The above is a true copy of a letter directed to Lieut. col. Ball.

R. M'CALL,
Acting Surgeon, Lt. Dragoons.

" Plattsburgh, April 6th, 1815.

" DEAR SIR,

" I did not receive yours of the 17th February, till three or four days since, as I have just returned from the Southward, after an absence of two months.

I regret the circumstance exceedingly, from a fear that my silence may have been attributed to a different cause from fact.

Every particular. relative to the affair of the Horses, is perfectly fresh in my recollection, and it affords me great pleasure to have it in my power, to give such information, as may rebut every foul aspersion, that may have been made on the transaction.

About the latter end of July last, or the beginning of August, I was directed to purchase a number of Horses for the United States service, particularly for the Dragoons. Previous to my departure on this service, you requested of me to purchase for you *on private account* two good Horses, independent of those intended for the United States, and mentioned at the same time col. Appling's wish for one.

On my return I was ordered to let certain officers chose, each, a horse, from the number I had purchased, at first cost,—they received them accordingly, and some paid me the cash, and others gave their receipts for them on private account.—I delivered to you sixteen Horses.—Fourteen for public use, on your requisition, and two on your *private account* for which you gave me your receipt. Afterwards I purchased one for you for one hundred and ten dollars, and for which you were to turn in one of the two former.—I also left one that had been

sick, with the waggon master, which you afterwards took on public account,—of course there are still two to be covered by a requisition.

I applied to major Wood's brother for the amount of the account you inclosed me, and was informed no person had as yet administered on his estate.

I inclose you copies of the requisition and receipts.—The prices of the Horses were left out on account of my not knowing which two you had taken for yourself. Pray have the goodness to send me duplicate requisitions for sixteen Horses (that is, including the other two) and the one I now have shall be destroyed.—Also describe to me the other private horse.

I am dear sir, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN BLEEKER,

Dep'y Qu'r Master General."

"Lt. Col. JAMES V. BALL,

Dragoons, Avon, State of N. York."

Cornet Caldwell says, that I told him the horse sold to Maj. Appling was a Dragoon horse, but when he is interrogated, mark the manner in which he has *inferred* what he has *positively sworn* I said—"I think it was at Chazy in the month of August at the time some of the Staff officers were about to get horses, he, lieut. col. Ball, observed they had no right to them, as all the horses purchased were for the Dragoons."—Now it is a fact perfect in recollection of those gentlemen of the staff, who were accommodated by Major Bleeker with horses at the time alluded to, that their selections were made previously to the selection for the Dragoon service.—And Capt. Halls statement on oath, that he saw him the preceding day in a lot with the public horses, to the contrary notwithstanding, the horse furnished lieut. col. Appling was purchased by Major Bleeker out of a stable the day succeeding that of the said selection.

Capt. Hopkins left camp on furlough about the fifteenth of March 1813, and did not join the squadron until the 26th of May, after its return from the siege of Camp Meigs.—On the 27th of June, I marched from Pickawa Plains, where Captain Hopkins acknowledges, that being obliged to leave, from indisposition, one of my two horses *then in camp*, I did obtain and ride a third private horse, and did continue to ride him until after the charge at Sandusky.—In a few days after the 13th of August 1813 my squadron was dismounted under the following order, and continued so, having invaded Canada on foot, the residue of the time embraced in the specification.

*Extract from General Orders issued at camp, Lower Seneca
August 13th 1813.*

"As it is probable that the Squadron of Dragoons may be obliged to act on foot for a few days in the course of the Campaign, they will be immediately furnished with muskets and Cartridge Boxes.—Lieut. Col. Ball will cause them to be daily practised in the Light Infantry manouvres.—It is not the intention of the General to divest the squadron of its character, or emoluments as Dragoons ;—he only wishes to provide for any contingency that may happen, and secure the services of this corps in all situations.

A true extract

(Signed) A. H. HOLMES, *Act. Adj. General.*

Thus then did Capt. Hopkins remain with my squadron from his return from furlough, until it was dismounted by order,—only eighty days of the whole time included in the specification, that I could have had horses with me, except a few days between the 3d of March, and his departure on furlough, when, it is proven by Abraham Bishop I had three of my horses with me, although not "in service" agreeably to the captains meaning of the term, as he does not recollect to have seen all three in camp at the same time,—which he accounts for, by saying they were usually kept in a stable in town. It was a subterfuge indeed of which the captain alone is worthy, when he found himself contradicted upon the oath of a *disinterested* witness, to draw from him by interrogatory, an acknowledgment of the fact that my horses were usually kept in a stable in the town, at which I was quartered; as if some law of the government or regulation of the War Department existed, which rendered the keeping of officers Horses always in camp necessary, to their drawing of forage or money in lieu thereof. He knew that no such law or regulation did exist, but he saw no other way of getting over his false swearing, than by giving a false meaning to the term "in service"—[see Appendix c c] In the 2nd charge are contained ten specifications, exhibiting a composition of malice, meanness and falsehood. Under this charge, my accusers have only substantiated their own baseness,—convicted themselves of insolence and disrespectful behaviour to their commanding officer, and proved the justice of those orders, of which they complain in the second and ninth specifications.—[see Appendix d x r] The vanity of capt. Hopkins has however been in some measure gratified. He has succeeded in getting before the public evidence of the probable fact that he did kill an Indian, in the charge alluded to; bawling a circumstance into notice,

which hitherto, amongst trifles, had been deemed too insignificant to become the subject of an official report.

On this subject, in addition to that testimony upon which the court found, what is stated to have been, my verbal report to general Harrison "substantially true" - I beg leave to offer the following letter, written to major John B. Alexander, by a gentleman of strict honor and veracity, who was my adjutant at the time, and who seems to have as perfect a recollection of the transaction, as a circumstance so trifling, and the remote period would probably leave upon any mind, of the situation and conduct of others. [*See also the affidavit in the appendix marked ff.*]

" Westmoreland County, Pa. }
8th May, 1815. }

" DEAR SIR,

" In answer to the enquiries proposed in your letter of yesterday, relative to the affair near Lower Sandusky, it is my duty to state, that the charge was ordered and repeated by lieut. col. Ball, immediately on hearing the report of the Indian guns, in the direction of our advanced party, at which time he was at the head of the column, either in front or abreast of captain Hopkins, but to the best of my recollection a few horse lengths before the captain; at the same time captain Hopkins turned his face towards his troop, and reiterated the word "charge."

On lieut. col. Ball's giving the order to charge, he drew his sword and pursued the Indians at full speed, overtook and attacked the hindmost Indian, at which time he was perhaps twenty or thirty yards in advance of captain Hopkins, who was I believe the next person to overtake and attack one of the enemy.

The advanced party consisted of sergeant Eagleton, and four soldiers of captain Hopkins's troop. Captain Hopkins troop being the leading one of the squadron, were, I believe the only ones that came up with the enemy, before they were dispatched; except two of Markles, and one of M'Clellands, acting as videttes on the right, and were closed in, to the head of the squadron, by the road approaching near to the River.

I am dear sir, &c.

HUMPHREY FULLERTON."

" JOHN B. ALEXANDER, ESQ."

" N. B. It is worthy of remark that, if this charge had not been ordered the instant it was, the enemy might have gained a thick piece of woods, and of course secured their retreat.

"This affair was considered by the most of us, as the har-
binger of an action more bloody and of greater importance.
Lt. Col. Ball therefore, without the least delay, after the few
Indians were cut down, called in his men, had them immedi-
ately formed in line at right angles with the road, and swept
the woods for near half a mile from the River, as far down to-
wards Fort Stephenson as was necessary to detect an ambuscade,
or as the nature of the ground would admit of."

[See also the affidavit in the appendix marked H]

How far this statement of an honorable, unprejudiced,
and disinterested man, corroborates, or disproves the statement
of my warped, biassed, and unprincipled accuser, the reader will
determine.

In the third charge there are various specified cases of cruel-
ty.—They are in no instance proven, and too contemptible to mer-
it notice.—It was a singular effort of malice and weakness, to
charge me with having obeyed the orders of my superiors, for
so I am charged in the first and second specifications. Captain
Hopkins admits on his oath, that my command formed a part of
Gen. M'Arthurs brigade, and marched with it from Black Rock
to Fort George.—[See appendix G H I J K L]—As to the third
specification, it is apparent that several of the culprits charged
before the Court Martial at Batavia, of which captain Hopkins
was president, so far from being acquitted (as captain Hopkin's
testifies) had never been tried at all, upon the charges preferred
against them, but had been screened from trial, by an opinion
of the court against its own jurisdiction. An opinion not less
repugnant to law and military usage, than dangerous in prac-
tice. It is confessed that I received the opinion of that court,
with mortified feelings of shame and indignity, and cancelled
that record of my accusers folly and wickedness,—continuing
the accused in confinement, to await that trial they had not re-
ceived, or at least, to restrain them from further depredations on
private property, and to account for sleeping on his post, upon
which plea, and the establishment of which fact, sergeant
Luckado was acquitted before the court martial, of which capt.
Hopkins was president. Will it be pretended that the power to
arrest, does not necessarily imply the power to continue that ar-
rest, until trial and punishment? If, according to the doctrine
of this wise tribunal, I did not possess authority to order a regi-
mental Court Martial, will they also deny me the power to ar-
rest?—The consummate baseness of exhibiting this charge is only
to be equalled by the folly of the court referred to in it.—And
here the reader will pause with astonishment, at the audacity of
captain Hopkins, who, blinded by the revengeful passions which

labored in his bosom, permitted himself to be hurried on, to become the trumpeter of his own shame, the pander of his own disgrace.—*He, as president of that court, has solemnly sworn, that he would not divulge the sentence until it should be published by the proper authority.* What might I not fear from such a witness in such a cause? What value can hereafter be affixed to his pledge of honor, who thus sports with oaths, and so shamefully unmasks to the scorn of the world?—The remaining charges were shewn to be as false as they are trifling.

My order of the 17th of August, regulating stable duties, obliged all the officers of my command, off duty, to be present at their performance.—The sensibility of the spruce gentlemen, was excited by it;—it became the subject of much complaint, and was often evaded; but was found to contribute greatly to improve the condition of the horses—at length the very correct Capt. Hopkins, availing himself of my temporary absence to Buffaloe, during which time the command devolved upon him, issued the order of March 5th 1815, [*See appendix M*] abrogating my order on that subject, and literally leaving the officers at their discretion, to perform, or not perform, a duty which the same order deems “all important to give efficacy and character to the corps.”—But a simple abrogation was not sufficient for the purpose of the gentleman, and therefore he proceeds, in a fine flourish of style and sentiment, to stain the pages of my orderly book, with the record of his insolent contempt of, and opposition to, my authority.

Whether, in any case, it is correct, during a temporary command, to abrogate a standing order of a superior officer, others will judge, perhaps as accurately as Capt. Hopkins, and determine how far such conduct evinces a due sense of subordination, capacity to command, or competency to judge of the capacity of others.—Capt. Hall is not without his merit in this story.—He cannot, with Capt. Hopkins, lay claim to the merit of having killed an Indian; but that his name might be preserved from oblivion, and be gloriously inscribed on the records of fame, the important matter of recrossing the Niagara River is brought into notice, as an affair of consequence. I cannot think highly of the fortitude of any person, who could, for a moment, entertain an apprehension of danger, at the time alluded to: there being nothing to fear, except a stormy night and burning stumps, which terrific objects might easily have been avoided, had Capts. Hopkins and Hall, used equal diligence with the troop of Capt. Harris, which commenced crossing after them, and was over several hours before night.—But the gentlemen were not quite as tardy as they represent, for more than three fourths of the squadron were across before night.—Capts.

Halls testimony is often confronted by improbabilities, as well as by the positive evidence of other witnesses.—The charge of engrossing, almost exclusively, the use of the mechanics about my quarters, is singularly supported.—Capt. Hall, in answering the question put to him by Capt. Hopkins, is driven to the necessity of admitting the falsehood and malignity of the charge, or of confessing himself guilty of very gross misconduct.—In imitation of his prototype, he determined to damn himself for the purpose of sacrificing me. Therefore he elects the latter alternative, admits that in a return called for by my order, he had *falsely* reported seven carpenters, when in fact many reported were *not* carpenters.—However, he says one of his best carpenters, Harvey, was kept employed about my quarters until they were completed.—Is this true? How does it accord with the testimony of Sergt. Maj. Grimes, who says “there were also two carpenters detailed, one for the field and staff, the other for the Hospital.—Shed, of Capt. Harris’s troop, to work for the field and staff, and Harvey, of Capt. Halls troop, to work on the Hospital”? (The neglect of which is so much complained of.)—And with this fact, had Capt. Hall have done his duty to his troop, he must have been acquainted.—The truth is, that these gentlemen have ever been more intent on their own personal ease, than the accommodation of their troops.

The whole complaint of inconvenience for want of an Hospital,—huts for their men, their filthiness, and destitution of clothing and equipments, (as far as there was truth in it,) was solely to be attributed to their negligence and inattention to duty.—For the truth of this I appeal to my order of the 22d Nov. 1814.—To the certificate of the Contractor, and the list of stoppages made by the Paymaster for articles overdrawn by the men who were discharged from the corps.—[See appendix *n o p.*] [*p not present.*]—Another of my accusers is Lieut. Stirling, an Irishman, promoted from the ranks.—His long experience in the lowest grades of his profession, in Europe and America, is alledged as authority against me. In the true style of a Paddy, he shews the rule in Europe to have been, that officers were never *obliged* to attend stable parades, except when they *pleased*.—I believe the discipline is changed since the Lieut. left the European service, and that now the practice is, to *oblige* subordinate officers to do their duty when the *commanding officer pleases*—It was not ingenuous in Lieut. Stirling, when testifying (when as Regimental Quarter Master he suggested the utility of sending an officer to Utica or Albany with a requisition) to evade the truth, by saying, “that altho’ I did not refuse, yet neglected to send.—Candor would

have required of him to give in this place the true reason why it was not done, (viz.) the total want of cash to defray the expenses.—This to be sure, appears afterwards, when extorted by an interrogatory.—In the important point of his testimony, as to Sergeant Whitiker's menial employment, in waiting on the table, he is directly contradicted by Doctor McCall; who also testifies that the requisition above alluded to, was forwarded by mail.

Lieut. Anspaeh, when called on, in support of the 10th specification, of the 2d Charge, stated in his testimony, that I had discharged a man (Jesse Williams) from the troop he commanded, without his knowing any thing about it.—However, it turned out in proof, that at the time of the discharge of Jesse Williams, the witness was confined by a wound he received in a riotous resistance to the civil authority; and at that time, the command of the troop had been given to Cornet Caldwell, who, as such commanding officer, did sign his certificate, and the papers regularly executed were produced and shewn to the Court. By some unavoidable means this testimony is not taken down, except one interrogatory, as to the name of the man discharged, which is answered in such a manner, as to shew its connection with something more which does not appear, and which, if made to appear, would be as above stated.—He also states that during his command in capt. Hopkins' troop, one of the privates had been detailed to attend to my horses without his knowledge,—If capt. Hopkins had possessed the candor of a gentleman, he would have informed him it was at his particular request that this private (Floor) was so employed, to screen him in the Captain's absence, from the cruelty of the witness.—[see appendix Q].—This was the only attempt made by my prosecutors to support this specification—and very justly have they suffered the sting of mortification in its failure, for trusting so important a point to the ingenuity of such a witness.

Cornet Caldwell says, that he was acting adjutant on the march from Lake George to Champion, that the guards detailed from the mounted Dragoons, were a non-commissioned officer and six men, from each troop only.—Yet he is obliged to admit that a standing order, which never had been countermanded, required two non-commissioned officers and twelve men from each troop. At one time he says that Lieut. Wright had the command of the dismounted Dragoons; at another, that he had not.—He knows of no measures taken by me to correct the evil of small details, but when my official letter on that subject is produced, (knowing it in my power to establish the fact,) he acknowledges the copy to be in his own hand writing, and in answer to an interrogatory put by the prosecutor, says, that he

cannot say, whether he did or did not carry the original to Gen. Izard, to whom it was addressed.—[see appendix U]—In short, all his answers are either confessions of ignorance, or, at best, guesses. When ever he attempts to be positive, he is shewn to be in error.

Sword Master Sandford “ says, that at the time stated in the 7th specification, about sun set, three persons whom we supposed to be British Dragoons, were seen;—lieut. col. Ball ordered one witness to reconnoitre; that as he and his party mounted their horses the supposed Dragoon’s disappeared, and were seen no more;—that when he returned, reported to the lieut. col. he had been two and an half miles, and seen nothing but a fire which he supposed to be the enemies fire;—that he approached it to a distance between a quarter and an half mile—still he saw nothing but the fire.” I think this report ought to have quieted the fears of my *would be* thought courageous *Captains*—and it certainly would have produced that effect, could they have reflected, that this *alarming* fire was exactly in the direction of, and just the distance at which the American pickett had been posted from us, during the day, for the security of the troops engaged in crossing, and which was at that time (having been but a few minutes before drawn in,) posted in our rear, as a covering party, at least an hundred strong. Yet it is insidiously attempted to shew, by this specification, that it was in consequence of that very report, that I was induced to leave the Canada shore at the late hour stated by the witness, and which it will appear evident to the reader, from the distance at which he reconnoitered, and the nature of that service, must have been even later than stated by him (“ between sun set and dark.”) With equal management and industry, where there are a sufficient number of boats, the same time will be found necessary to cross a troop of fifty, that is required to cross one of an hundred, the means being proportioned to the labour.—Capt. Harris’s troop, it is shown by sergeant Parker, was over three hours before sun-set—what portion of the squadron could possibly have remained there at the time that I crossed? The latest hour that capt. Hopkins gives himself *credit* for crossing at is 12, and gr. master serg’t Rowland in his evidence says, that there only remained to cross, the next morning, 18 or 20 men and horses. But all this is merely to shew the absurdity of my accusers, for having ordered (as has been shewn to the court) that the Squadron should cross by troops, (and which order gives a flat contradiction to the statement of captain Hopkins on that subject) it was not incumbent on me to wait; and as it is stated by Sandford on cross examination, that there was no alarm in camp, it could not have been personal safety that in-

duced me to go. [See appendix A & T. and the following address and opinion of the Court.]

GENTLEMEN OF THE COURT,

Conscious of my innocence and the rectitude of my public life, and reposing with the fullest confidence on your justice and discernment, and knowing that your patience must be in a manner exhausted by the tedious length of an investigation into numerous unfounded, and generally frivolous charges, I cannot justify myself in detaining the court for one moment, in preparing a defence which the indulgence of the court would have granted; I shall therefore waive any summing up on the evidence before you, and conclude by stating for the information of the court, and that every suspicion may be removed, if any should exist, which is not apprehended, that it is completely in my power to prove, by majors Bleeker and Rees D. Q. Masters Gen. that the horse alluded to, in the first specification of the first charge, was purchased by major Bleeker for private use, and intended for lieut. col. Appling, and was a perfectly fair, open and avowed transaction;—having at this time in my possession the official letters of those gentlemen, which have been laid before the court and deemed not evidence in support of this fact;—and which fact those gentlemen can and will, if occasion requires, attest to, and support by their oaths.

I cannot however conclude without expressing to the court, the deep sense which I feel and entertain, of the propriety and fairness of the investigation, and patience with which it has honored me with a hearing.

(Signed)

JAMES V. BALL,

Lt. Col. U. States Army.

“After mature deliberation on the evidence adduced, the Court gave the following opinions in the case.

“CHARGE 1st.

“SPECIFICATION 1st.—The Court is of opinion from the evidence adduced, that the transaction between lieut. col. Ball and lieut. col. Appling, was open fair and honorable on the part of lieut. col. Ball;—lieut. col. Ball making no secret thereof before or after it; and that if public money was misapplied the Deputy Quarter Master General is alone responsible.

“SPECIFICATION 2d.—The Court is of opinion that officers entitled to horses, are not obliged to keep their horses always with them, to authorise the officer to forage or forage money for them, as in the case of lieut. col. Ball, who, with his detachment of Dragoons, came by water from Detroit to Buffalo, and from

Fort George to Sackett's Harbor ; and that there is no evidence before the Court to establish this specification. Nor could it be possible from the late hour this specification was preferred, and the remote situation of lieut. col. Ball's witnesses, (Ohio), that he could produce testimony on this specification.

The Court is of opinion the first charge is unsupported by the testimony adduced.

“ CHARGE 2d—

“ SPECIFICATION 1st---The Court is of opinion that this specification is not established, but on the contrary, the testimony of sergeant major Grimes proves the verbal report, which the specification alledged was made, by lieut. col. Ball to Gen. Harrison was substantially true.

“ Specification 2d—The Court is of opinion that the selections made for the field and staff, guard house and hospital, were reasonable and correct, and that this specification is unsupported.

“ Specification 3d—The Court is of opinion that this specification is not substantiated.

“ Specification 4th—The Court is of opinion that this specification is without foundation.

“ Specification 5th—The Court is of opinion that this specification is not supported by testimony.

“ Specification 6th—The Court is of opinion that this specification is not established ; and if it were, the letter from maj. gen. Izard herewith annexed authorised the confinement, and frees lieut. col. Ball from imputation of improper motive.

“ Specification 7th—The Court is of opinion that this specification is unsupported, inasmuch as there does not appear to have been cause for apprehension, at the time alluded to in the specification, or any time during the evening or night. It also appears that capt. Dorman was out with a detachment of 100 infantry, to cover the embarkation of the squadron. It also appears to the Court, that the order given in relation to passing over the squadron was, that each troop should pass independently, under the superintendence of its own officers, and that each troop should detail a party, and get as many boats as possible for that purpose ; and that at Fort Erie, about one mile distant, was Gen. Bissel's brigade, viz. the 5th, 14th, 15th and 16th Regiments of Infantry, a battalion of dismounted Dragoons, a battallion of Artillery, and the consolidated Rifle Regiment.

“ Specification 8th—The Court is of opinion that the testimony does not establish this specification.

“ Specification 9th—The Court is of opinion that this specification is unimportant in itself, and unsupported.

"Specification 10th—The Court is of opinion that this specification is unsupported by evidence.

The Court is of opinion that this charge is unsupported by evidence, and that the conduct of lieut. col. Ball has been military, correct and honorable.

"CHARGE 3d.

"Specification 1st—The Court is of opinion that this specification is unsupported, and if any blame or censure ought to be attached, it would be to the General commanding, and not to lieut. col. Ball, who was a subordinate officer of Gen. M'Arthur's brigade, and marched with it.

"Specification 2d—The Court is of opinion that this specification is not supported by the evidence adduced, inasmuch, as it does not appear to the Court, that the dismounted Dragoons were more fatigued, harassed, or suffered more, or marched further during a day, than the light Artillery, acting as Infantry, or the Infantry of the Division; and it is in evidence before the Court, that they had the advantage of transportation for their knapsacks, and it is also in evidence, that the dismounted Dragoons did not suffer more from sickness than the mounted men, nor does it appear to the Court, that the dismounted detachment were ever ordered to quicken their pace, while marching in front of the mounted Dragoons.

"Specification 3d.—Lieut. col. Ball having stated, that he disapproved of the proceedings of the Court Martial referred to in the Specification, and the prisoners being charged with a serious crime, the Court is of opinion, that it was perfectly right and proper to keep them under guard.

"Specification 4th.—The Court is of opinion, that sergeant Jones's contemptuous disobedience of orders, justified his confinement; and that the want of commissioned officers to compose a Court Martial, was the reason why the court was not immediately ordered for his trial.

"Specification 5th—The Court is of opinion that if this Specification is proved, it attaches no censure or blame to lieut. col. Ball, inasmuch, as with ordinary industry, the men might have kept their Clothes free from filth, and their bodies from vermin.

"Charge 4th.

"Specification 1st.—It appearing to the Court, that there being few (if any) uniform parades within the period mentioned in the specification.

The Court is of opinion that the specification is too unimportant to claim the serious consideration of the court.

"Specification 2d.—It appears to the court from the testimony, that regular drills were ordered, immediately after the com-

pletion of the huts and stables, (30th of January 1815) and the court is of opinion between that time and the order for the sale of the horses, was not more than sufficient for drills, preparatory to the exercise of the Squadron; and therefore no neglect on the part of lieut. col. Ball.

“ *Specification 3d.*—It appears lieut. col. Ball made due exertions to procure the articles referred to in the specification.

“ *Specification 4th.*—The court is of opinion that this specification is unsubstantiated.

The court is of opinion the charge of *neglect of duty* is unsupported by the testimony adduced.

“ *Charge 5th.*

“ *Specification 1st.*—The court is of opinion that this specification is not of sufficient import to claim their attention.

“ *Specification 2d.*—The court is of opinion that this specification is unsupported by any testimony.

“ *Specification 3d.*—The court is of opinion that the order referred to was expedient, proper and military.

“ *Specification 4th.*—The court is of opinion that the testimony does not support this specification.

“ *Specification 5th.*—The court is of opinion that this specification is not established.

The court is of opinion that the charge of incapacity to command a squadron of Dragoons, is not supported by testimony before the court.

The court is of opinion that the complaints set forth in remonstrances, signed by several officers of the Regiment of Dragoons, and addressed to the honorable the Secretary of War, are not justified by the testimony before the court.

And the court, after maturely weighing and deliberating upon the charges and specification, and the testimony adduced, is of opinion, that there is no cause of Court-Martial in relation to the conduct of lieut. col. Ball.

The Court adjourned until 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.—
(29th May, 1815.)

The Court met pursuant to adjournment.—PRESENT.

Col. ROBERT PURDY, *President.*

Major W. MORGAN, } *Members.*
Major H. GRINDAGE, }

ROBERT R. RUFFIN, *Lieut. Artill. Recorder.*

The Court adjourned, *Sine die.*

(Signed)

ROBERT PURDY,

Col. 4th Inf. & President.

ROBERT RUFFIN,

Lieut. Artillery, Recorder.

DIVISION ORDER,

"Adjutant Gen's. Office }
Buffalo 1st. June 1815. }

The court of Enquiry, of which col Robert Purdy is president,
is dissolved. By Order.

J. SNELLING, Asst. Adj. Gen.

The letters and *exparte* affidavits contained in the appendix, I have selected from a greater mass in my possession, which, although not considered proper evidence before the Court, (and without which the Court has decided in my favor on every specification,) will serve more fully to illustrate the subject, and exhibit the falsehood and baseness of my accusers. The whole is submitted to the candor of a discerning public, in confidence that nothing will be discovered to chill the bosom of friendship, awaiting my return to private life, and to the circle of my early acquaintance.

JAMES V. BALL.

APPENDIX.

(a a)

FROM THE LONDON STAR—Nov. 12.

GENERAL ORDER.

Horse Guards, Nov. 10, 1814.

His royal highness the commander in chief has been pleased to direct, that the following copy of a letter, containing the opinion and sentence of a general court martial, recently held for the trial of Colonel GEORGE QUENTIN, of the 10th or Prince of Wales' own royal regiment of light dragoons, and the Prince Regent's pleasure thereon, shall be entered in the general order books, and read at the head of every regiment in his majesty's service.

By command of his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief,
HARRY CALVERT,
Adjutant-General.

(COPY.)

Horse Guards, Nov. 8, 1814.

SIR—I have laid before the Prince Regent the proceedings of a general court martial, held at Whitehall, on the 17th October, 1814, and continued by adjournments to the 1st of Nov. following, for the trial of Col. George Quentin, of the 10th royal hussars, who was arraigned upon the following charges, viz:—

1st Charge.—“That on the 10th day of January, 1814, the regiment being on that day on duty, foraging in the valley of McCoy, in France, and the said Col. Quentin having the command of the regiment, did not make the proper and timely arrangements to insure the success of the regiment in its operations of foraging, although directed so to do by the brigade order of the 6th of January, 1814, but neglected and abandoned his duty, as commanding officer, leaving some of the divisions without orders, or support, when attacked by the enemy, whereby some men and horses of the regiment were taken prisoners, & the safety of such divisions hazarded;—such conduct, on the part of the said Colonel Quentin, evincing great professional incapacity, tending to lessen the confidence of the soldiers of the regiment in the skill and courage of their officers, being unbecoming and disgraceful to his character as an officer, prejudicial to good order and discipline, and contrary to the articles of war.”

2d Charge.—The said Col. Quentin, having the command of the regiment, the day after the battle of Orthes, viz. on the 28th day of Feb. 1814, on the high road leading to St. Sever, in front of the village of Hagelman, Department of Landes in France, and the regiment being on that day engaged with the enemy, he, the said Col. Quentin, did not previously to, or during the period the regiment was so engaged, make such effectual attempts as he ought to have done, by his presence, and by his own personal exertions, and example, to co-operate with, or support the advanced divisions of the 10th hussars, under his command, but neglected and abandoned his duty, as commanding officer, and thereby hazarded the safety of those divisions, and the character and reputation of the regiment;—such conduct on the part of the said Colonel Quentin, tending to lessen the confidence of the soldiers in the skill and courage of their officers, being unbecoming his character as an officer, prejudicial to good order and military discipline, and contrary to the article of war.”

3d Charge.—“That on the 10th day of April, 1814, during the battle of Toulouse, in France, the said Colonel Quentin, having the command of the regiment, and the regiment being on that day in the presence of, and attacked by the enemy, he, the said Colonel Quentin, did not during such attack, make such effectual attempts as he ought to have done by his presence, and his own personal exertions, to co-operate with, or support the advanced divisions of the regiment under his command;—but neglected and abandoned his duty as commanding officer, leaving some of the divisions, when under fire from the enemy, without orders, and thereby unnecessarily hazarding the safety and reputation of those divisions, such conduct on the part of the said Colonel Quentin, tending to lessen the confidence of the soldiers of the regiment, in the skill and courage of their officers, being unbecoming and disgraceful to his character as an officer, prejudicial to good order and military discipline, and contrary to the articles of war.”

4th Charge.—“For general neglect of duty by allowing a relaxed discipline to exist in the regiment under his command then on foreign service, by which the reputation of the regiment suffered in the opinion of the commander of the forces, and of the Lieut. General commanding the cavalry;—their displeasure having been expressed, or implied, in a letter from the Adjutant-General of the forces on the continent, addressed to Maj. Gen. Lord Edward Somerset, commanding the hussar brigade, dated on or about the 29th of March, 1814, and in the orders of the Lieut. General commanding the cavalry, dated the 26th of February, 1814, such conduct on the part of the said

Colonel Quentin being unbecoming his character as an officer, prejudicial to his Majesty's service, and subversive of all order and military regulation and discipline, and contrary to the articles of war."

Upon which charges the court came to the following decision :

" The court having maturely weighed and considered the evidence on the part of the prosecution, as well as what has been offered in defence, are of opinion that col. Quentin is guilty of so much of the 1st charge as imputes to him having neglected his duty as commanding officer, on the 10th of January, by leaving some of the divisions without orders when attacked by the enemy, but acquit him of the remainder of the charge.

" With respect to the second charge, the court are of opinion that col. Quentin is not guilty.

" With respect to the third charge, the court are of opinion that col. Quentin is not guilty.

" With respect to the 4th charge, the court are of opinion that a relaxed discipline, as set forth in that charge, did exist in the regiment under col. Quentin's command, whilst on foreign service, during the period alluded to in the letters and orders referred to in the charge, and as they cannot but consider the commanding officer of a regiment to be responsible for such relaxation of discipline, they, therefore, think themselves bound to find col. Quentin guilty to the extent of *allowing to exist*, but as they consider the letter from the Adjutant-General to the troops on the continent, of March 30, 1814, expressing the displeasure of the commander of the forces, as a reprimand to col. Quentin, adequate to the degree of blame which attached to him, the court do not feel themselves called upon to give any sentence upon this charge in the way of further punishment, and they consider that any thing unusual in this determination will be explained by the singularity of the circumstances attending this charge, by which an officer is put upon his trial for conduct which had before been the subject of animadversion by those under whose command he was then serving, but which at the time was not considered deserving of a more serious proceeding by the commander of the forces ; nor does it appear to have been made the subject of any remonstrance or request for a more serious investigation on the part of the officers of the regiment.

" The Court having found the prisoner guilty of so much of the first charge as is above expressed, and so much of the last charge as is above recited, with the reasons which induce the court to feel that they are not called upon to affix any punishment to the last mentioned charge, do only adjudge with refer-

ence to the first charge, that col. Quentin be reprimanded in such manner as his Royal Highness the commander in chief shall be pleased to direct.

"The Court, however, cannot conclude these proceedings without expressing their regret, that there appears to have existed such a want of co-operation among the officers of the regiment, as to render the duties of the commanding officer much more arduous than they otherwise would have been."

"I am to acquaint you, that his Royal Highness the Prince Regent has been pleased, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, to approve and confirm the finding and the sentence of the court.

His Royal Highness has further been pleased to consider, that when officers of a corps prefer accusations affecting the honor and professional character of their commander, nothing but the most conclusive proof of their charges before a court-martial can justify a proceeding, which must otherwise be so pregnant with mischief to the discipline of the army; and that a regard due to the subordination of the service must ever attach a severe responsibility to subordinate officers who become the accusers of their superior. His Royal Highness, therefore, could not but regret, that the officers of the 10th Hussars, should have been so unmindful of what they owe to the first principles of their profession, as to assume an opinion of their commander's personal conduct, which neither their general experience of the service, nor their knowledge of the alleged facts (as appears from their own evidence,) could sanction or justify,—and which opinion would appear, from the proceedings, to have been utterly void of foundation, in every instance of implied attack or insinuation, upon that officer's courage and conduct before the enemy, as conveyed by the tenor of the second and third charges.

In allusion to the letter signed by the chief part of the officers, and in which the present proceedings originated, the Prince Regent has specially observed, that, exclusive of the doubt which may be entertained of their capability to form a judgment, so much beyond the scope of their experience in the service, it was worthy of remark, that some who have affixed their names to that paper, had never been with the regiment during the period in question, and others had never joined any military body beyond the depot of their corps; and it might thus be deduced, that although the officers have manifested, according to the appropriate remark of the court-martial, a want of co-operation in support of their commander's authority, yet those who have assumed a personal observance of Colonel Quentin's conduct, and those who, *though absent*, ap-

pear to have acted under a mischievous influence, by joining in an opinion to his prejudice, have all co-operated in a compact against their commanding officer, fraught with evils of the most mischievous tendency to the service : nor did it escape the notice of his Royal Highness, that this accusation has not been the momentary offspring of irritated feelings, but the deliberate issue of a long and extraordinary delay, for which no sufficient reasons, or explanation, have been assigned.

In this view of the case (which is not palliated by the very slight censures passed on Col. Quentin upon the first charge) his Royal Highness has considered that a mark of his displeasure towards those officers is essential to the vital interests of the army ; and that the nature of the combination against col. Quentin, would call for the removal from the service of those who have joined in it ; but as his Royal Highness would willingly be guided by a lenient disposition towards a corps of officers who have hitherto merited his approbation, and would willingly believe that *inadvertence* in some, and *inexperience* in others, had left them unaware of the mischievous tendency of their conduct upon this occasion, his Royal Highness is averse to adopt such severe measures as the custom of the service, in support of its discipline, usually sanctions upon the failure of charges against a commanding officer ; still it is essential that conduct so injurious in its nature, should be held forth to the army as a warning in support of subordination ; and his Royal Highness has therefore commanded that the officers who signed the letter of 9th August shall no longer act together as a corps, but that they shall be distributed by exchange throughout the different regiments of Cavalry in the Service, where it is trusted, that they will learn and confine themselves to their subordinate duties, until their services and experience shall sanction their being placed in ranks and situations where they may be allowed to judge of the general and higher duties of the profession.

The Prince Regent has been further pleased to observe, that though col. Palmer did not sign the letter of the 9th August, he is nevertheless, by his declared sentiments on the prosecution, and his general concurrence in the opinion of the officers, to be considered in the same light as if he had put his name to that paper ; and his Royal Highness has therefore commanded that he shall also be removed to another corps.

I am, &c.

(Signed) FREDERICK, *Commander in Chief.*

To the *Adjutant-General, &c.*

The Adjutant General then read the names of the following officers, being those who signed the letter to col. Palmer of the

11th of August, from which the proceedings against col. Quentin originated :

Col. Charles Palmer ; Lieut. Col. G. J. Roberts ; Capts. J. R. Lloyd, B. N. Harding, S. H. Stuart, George Fitzelarence, J. Smith, E. P. Turner, R. Goveen, C. Synge, Lord A. W. Hill, Edward Fox Fitzgerald ; Lieuts. H. Marquess of Worcester, Charles Eversfield, H. Somerset, G. Wombwell, C. Wyndham, H. Seymour, Henry Fitzelarence, A. F. Berkley, J. H. Powell, J. Jackson, J. A. Richardson, J. C. Green, Cornet R. B. Paliser.

And desired them to move forward in front of their respective troops, and to return their swords. He then addressed them as follows :

"GENTLEMEN—I have the Commander in chief's commands to signify to you his Royal Highness the Prince Regent's pleasure, that you no longer belong to the 10th Regiment of Hussars; and the commander in chief enjoins you to hold yourselves in readiness to join the different regiments of cavalry to which the Prince Regent will immediately appoint you."

The Adjutant General then directed the Hon. Maj. Howard to take on himself the command of the 10th Royal Hussars, until it shall be resumed by Colonel Quentin.

(A)

"Plattsburg, June 1st, 1814.

"DRAGOON ORDERS.

"The command of the Dragoons at this place having been assigned to lieut. col. Ball, he directs that the following regulations for their government, be, until further orders, *punctually attended to*. At Reveille every Officer and Dragoon for duty, will repair to their stables and remain with their horses until they and their stalls are perfectly cleaned—after which the senior officer present will order water and feed sounded, when the horses will be inspected and lead to water. At noon and 7 P. M. water and feed will be sounded, when the same routine will be observed, with the exception of falling in for inspection, and that the horses shall be watered before they are cleaned. No Dragoon will be permitted to ride his horse on any account whatever, without the order or permission of a commissioned officer. All the dismounted Dragoons will turn out at reveille and sweep the camp. All other fatigues will be performed by regular detail from the whole. The prisoners of war are to be exempt from field duties only. The Saddlers will be immediately and daily employed in repairing the saddles, and the Blacksmith's, as soon as tools can be procured from the Quarter Master, in shoeing the horses and furnishing each mounted Dragoon with an extra set of pointed shoe nails, for which he will

be held accountable. As mousing and training is of the first importance in Cavalry service, capt. Haig will immediately commence with his horses, and use every exertion to perfect them in it as soon as possible. No soldier, except he be sick, or when raining, will be permitted to eat in his tent.

The daily details until further orders, will be as follows.—For police, one subaltern—for guard, one sergeant, one corporal, and fifteen privates—as orderly to the commanding officer, one non-commissioned officer.

JAMES V. BALL,
Lt. Col. Comd'g. Dragoons.

(B)

“ Dragoon Camp, Chazy, N. Y.
17th August 1814.

DRAGOON ORDERS.

Every Dragoon mounted and dismounted off duty, will be turned out to-morrow at 10 o'clock, and be incessantly employed, except at stable and meal hours, in raking, sweeping and removing the nuisance from the camp, until it is in a perfect state of cleanliness; and whenever necessity of removing the horses from the pickets, for the purpose of cleaning the ground, occurs, that duty shall be performed by troops entire, each troop cleaning its own ground, and not by detailed fatigues from each troop. The Quarter Master of the detachment will assign to the troops their ground, respectively, after which the commanding officer of each troop will be held responsible for its cleanliness.—The Lieut. Colonel regrets the necessity of reiterating his order of the 1st of June last, respecting stable duties; it is a course which he is decidedly determined shall be pursued in his command, and from which he will permit no departure.—When all the soldiers of a company are on duty, their officers should never be absent.—The Commanding Officer takes this opportunity of assuring the gentleman of his command, that however disagreeable the duty of superintending the cleaning and feeding their horses may be, they will be amply paid for their toil and feelings, by the additional service, difference of appearance, and fame of their troops. All the mounted Dragoon officers, are therefore strictly enjoined to give regular personal attention to this important duty. In future no Dragoon will be permitted to pass the chain of sentinels without a written pass, signed by the commanding officer of his troop, upon which subject the officer of the day, will instruct the non-commissioned officers of the guards. Nor shall more than four Dragoons, from any one troop, be absent or pass at the same time. The ground upon which the horses are picketed, shall

be regularly cleaned three times a day, except in cases of emergency or bad weather, when the senior officer present may direct otherwise. No Dragoon shall be permitted, upon any occasion, to mount his horse, without the special order or permission of an officer. There shall be daily detailed, an orderly musician, who will be punctual in his attendance at the Acting Adjutant's quarters at all times, except when the squadron is upon drill, when he shall attend it. The hour for the evening stable call is changed from seven, to half after six o'clock.

(Signed)

JAMES V. BALL,
Lt. Col. Com'dg. Dragoons.

(C.)

ABRAHAM BISHOP,

Question.—What Horses had Major, now lieut. col. Ball, in the army, when you first joined it?

Answer.—I joined the squadron in the latter end of November, or first of December 1812.—At that time, Major Ball had two large Bay Horses, and two Dun-horses.

Question.—What became of them?

Answer.—When we marched to Massissinawa, one of the Dun and one of the Bay horses, were sent to Kentucky to keep; the other Dun horse was left at Dayton or somewhere in its neighbourhood; the other bay horse the Major rode to Massissinawa and back; he afterwards let Cornet Hays have him for a horse called Duke, which horse was forwarded to Detroit & met the Major there—and when we were ordered to embark for Buffalo, he was sent into Ohio.—One of the Dun horses got lame and was left in keeping at Pickwa-plains.—I was present when the Bay and the Dun horse was sent off to Kentucky.—The Major charged Capt. Ball to take good care of them, and Capt. Ball promised to put them in fine order for him.

Question.—Was the horse that Capt. Hopkins took, and used as a pack horse, while on furlough to Philadelphia and back, one of his troop dragoon horses?

Answer.—He has always been in the troop as a dragoon horse, since I joined last.

Question.—What became of the match of young Sterling horses that were purchased for, and belonged, to Capt. Hopkins's troop in 1812?

Answer.—One was killed at Massissinawa, and the other is the horses that Capt. Hopkins rides and claims.—The little sorrel that Capt. Hopkins claims, he got of lieut. Watts by exchanging a public dragoon horse for him. The brown horse claimed by Capt. Hopkins was purchased for his troop and was a public dragoon horse in it in 1812.

Question.—Did you enlist in Capt. Hopkins troop.

Answer.—I did in June 1812.

Abraham Bishop personally appeared before me Jeremiah Riggs Esq. one of the Justices of the peace for Ontario county, and hearing the questions hereon contained, read, made oath to the answers, as hereon stated, as being true and correct.

Sworn before me at Avon 12th April 1815.

JEREMIAH RIGGS, J. P.

c c

SPENCER BALLS DEPOSITION.

I arrived at Franklinton, Ohio, in November 1812, when I carried with me, and delivered to James V. Ball then a Major in the U. States Dragoons, a pair of bay horses, *his own property*.—I found the said Major Ball on my arrival at Franklinton, in possession of a pair of dun horses which I also knew to be *his own property*.—I accompanied the said Major Ball from Franklinton to Xenia, when on his march in December following to Massissinawa.

At Xenia, in presence of Capt. Samuel G. Hopkins, the said Major Ball did deliver me two of his said horses viz. a bay and a dun, to take care of for him the said Major, until after the expedition upon which he was then ordered.—Sometime in March following when the said Major Ball was returning with his squadron from Camp Meigs to the interior, he the said Major did receive at Dayton his said dun horse, left with me as aforesaid, and I did see the said Major sometime after that in Cincinnati, when and where the said Capt. Hopkins was on his way to Kentucky on furlough, in possession of his said dun horse.—Sometime after, and during the absence of the said Capt. Hopkins on furlough, the said dun horse was again delivered to me at Lebanon, Ohio, by the said Major Ball, to be kept for him in Kentucky; and from that time to the conclusion of the late war, there never was a day in which I had not two horses in keeping for the said Major James V. Ball.

SPENCER BALL, Jr.

Frederick, sct.

Personally appeared before me the subscribing Justice, Spencer Ball Jr. who made oath that the above statement is just and true, to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Given under my hand the 25th October 1815.

EDWARD MCGUIRE.

[D]

SERGEANT MAJOR GRIMES.

Question—Do you know that the Corporal, having command of the men furnished upon your detail as a fatigue, to work at the barracks of the field and staff of the squadron, reported to lieut. col. Ball, that they were incompetent to that duty, there being not one axe-man amongst them?

Answer—Yes, I do; and I have reason to believe they were selected from each troop specially on that account.

Question—Was it immediately after the report of these facts, and in consequence thereof, that he, lieut. col. Ball ordered you to select six axe-men to be reported on daily duty, to work at these buildings?

Answer—Yes,—the order directed that they should be reported on daily duty, until the barracks of the field and staff were finished.

Question—Was there ever another instance of lieut. col. Ball's sending back a detailed party, and ordering you to select other men in place of those detailed, since you have been sergeant major to the squadron?

Answer—No other instance of selecting men has occurred in the squadron, since I was sergeant major. The Masons were regularly detailed.

Question—How long was lieut. col. Ball's house finished before the other buildings?

Answer—Lieut. Col. Ball's house is not yet finished, owing to the want of boards. He moved in it on the evening that Capt. Harris's troop moved into the barracks, and not more than two days before the balance of the squadron moved in.

Question—What proportion did the fatigue, for building the barracks of the field and staff, bear to the whole number reported for duty?

Answer—There was from 130 to 440 privates, exclusive of the daily and extra duty-men present, reported for duty, and the fatigue for the field and staff, including that for building the hospital and guard-house, never exceeded one or two non-commissioned officers, and twelve men, and often but ten. There was never more than two carpenters employed at these buildings at a time, except part of one or two days that Carpenter Brown worked on Doctor M'Call's house, which was after the troop was in the barracks;—and it was the only work that capt. Hopkins's Carpenter did upon the above buildings, except making a couple of small doors in the guard-house. Nor could the fatigues, for the field and staff buildings, have checked the progress of the other works, because neither troop ever employed the whole of the residue of men after these details, upon their company fatigues.

Question—Did you ever know an act of cruelty committed by lieut. col. Ball upon his men, or either of them;—or have you ever known him inattentive to their wants?

Answer—I have never known an instance of either.

ELIJAH GRIMES, *Serg't. Major.*

Personally appeared before me Jeremiah Riggs, Esq. one of the Justices of the peace, for Ontario County, state of New-York, Elijah Grimes, and made oath to the questions hereon contained as stated. Sworn before me at Avon, 20th February 1815.

JEREMIAH RIGGS, J. P.

[E]
JOHN W. DUBS.

Question 1st.—Were not worse men often sent, by order of Capt. Hopkins, in place of those regularly detailed, to work at the barracks of the field and staff of the squadron at Avon?

Answer.—Yes,

Question 2nd.—After you have made regular details from your roster for that duty, has Capt. Hopkins selected the most capable of the party, and ordered others to supply their places.

Answer.—He has.

Question 3d.—Did you know lieut. col. Ball, frequently to detail from Capt. Hopkins troop, his best horses for his own use? And if such detail had been made, would you not have known it?

Answer.—I should have known had such detail been made.—
It never was.

JOHN W. DUBS.

Late Orderly Sergeant of Capt. Hopkins Company.

Personally appeared before me Jeremiah Riggs Esq. one of the Justices of the peace, for Ontario County, state of New-York; John W. Dubs and made oath to the above.

Avon, 21, February 1815.

JEREMIAH RIGGS, J. P.

[F]
Camp at Avon. 11th Dec. 1814.

“DETACHMENT ORDERS.

“Six experienced axe-men will be immediately selected by the sergeant major and reported on standing fatigue, for the field and staff officers of the detachment, until their necessary buildings are completed. The Commanding Officer is sorry to find, that instead of regular details for such fatigue, the most indifferent men in his command have been selected. He hopes that unmilitary procedure will cease with this order. It is now enjoined on the commanding officers of troops, to attend regularly to their company roster, and see that their details are made agreeably to them.

JAMES V. BALL,

Lieut. Col. Comd'g.

[J]
I have repeatedly heard capt. Samuel G. Hopkins, late of the U. S. army, relate, in Alexandria and in Washington City, the circumstances of a charge made by lieut. col. Ball's squadron of Dragoon's near Lower Sandusky; in which charge he stated, that the said lieut. col. Ball did engage an Indian in single combat, and did kill him; that during the combat, several of his men, alarmed at the lt. colonel's situation, pushed up to his relief, and were ordered on by the said lieut. col. Ball, who

at that time did not require their aid. As often as I have heard him, the said capt. Hopkins, recount the circumstances, he has spoken of the conduct and bravery of the said lieut. col. Ball on that occasion (to which he said he was an eye witness) in the highest terms of approbation and applause, and stated his situation to have been a most hazardous and dangerous one.

SPENCER BALL, JR.

Frederick, sct.

Personally appeared before me, the subscribing Justice Spencer Ball Jr. who made oath that the within statement is just and true, to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Given under my hand the 25th October, 1815:

EDWARD MCGUIRE.

[G]

“ Head-Quarters Johnstown, }
8th September 1814. } ”

GENERAL ORDERS.

“ The squadron of Light Dragoons will proceed in advance of the Infantry, and make the best of its way to Watertown, where lieut col Ball will meet orders;—the remainder of the Division will continue its march in the order heretofore observed.

A severe example will be made of all who plunder, or injure private property ; the greatest attention is required of all Officers in order to bring to punishment those whose misconduct thus tends to disgrace the character of the army.

By command.

(Signed)

WM. CUMMINGS,
Act. Adj. Gen.

Dragoon Cantonment,
Avon, Feb. 20, 1815.

[H]

ORRIN FULLER.

Question—Were you Sattler to my squadron, and did you march with it from Chazy to Champion in the summer and fall of 1814?

Answer—Yes.

Question—Did the dismounted Dragoons under the command of lieut. Wright, during the whole of that time, form a part of my command?

Answer—Yes.

Question—From Lake George to Champion, were they always marched off some time before the mounted Dragoons.—and did they frequently arrive at the halting points before they were overtaken by the mounted Dragoons?

Answer—They were many times, to my certain knowledge, marched off a considerable time before the mounted Dragoons;—and my impression is they always were;—that it was sufficient

to give them four or five miles ahead, and in most cases, as well as my recollection serves me, they did arrive at the halting points before they were overtaken by the mounted Dragoons, but in several instances I am positive.

Question—Did you ever hear the dismounted Dragoons complain, that they were pressed and constrained to march faster, by the mounted Dragoons marching in their rear?

Answer—I never did, and if they had have been made, I should most probably have heard it, as they are in the habit of speaking with freedom of all their complaints, at and about my shop, and I think I hear as much of their complaints as any one in camp.

Question—Have you ever heard the soldiers of my command, complain that I was cruel?

Answer—No—I have frequently heard them say you were strict in your command, but I have always heard them say, that in all cases coming to your knowledge, they always had fair trials.

Question—Have I frequently urged you, as Sutler to my command, to be particular in supplying such articles as would administer most to the comfort of the soldiers?

Answer—Frequently, and more particularly than any other officer I ever supplied, and upon the march alluded to, I was particularly instructed to keep a supply of shoes for the dismounted dragoons.

At the request of lieut. col. James V. Ball, I have answered the above interrogations, put by him, and do certify the said answers to be correct and true.

ORRIN FULLER.

Personally appeared before me Jeremiah Riggs, Esq. one of the Justices of the peace for Ontario County, state of N. Y. Orrin Fuller, and made oath to the questions hereon contained.

Sworn before me at Avon, 22d, Feb. 1815.

JEREMIAH RIGGS, j. p.

[x]

JOSIAH PATTERSON.

Question.—Did you march in the capacity of sutler to lieut. col. Ball's command, from Lake George to Champion in September 1815?

Answer.—I did.

Question.—What was the order in which his command was marched from the ground on which it halted at night and noon?

Answer.—The dismounted were marched off first, and generally time enough to get four or five miles before the mounted dragoons marched?

Question.—Did the dismounted ever arrive at the halting points before they were overtaken by the mounted dragoons?

Answer.—I recollect that the dismounted sometimes arrived at the places where the command halted for the night, before they were overtaken by the mounted dragoons, but more frequently at the places where it stopped to refresh at noon?

Question.—How far was the Light Artillery generally in the rear of lieut. col. Ball's command?

Answer.—I cannot say with respect to the general distance, but we were so pressed by them, that I have been frequently obliged to drive my waggon off imperfectly loaded.

Question.—Did you ever hear the dismounted, or any of them, complain that they were obliged to march faster, in consequence of the mounted dragoons marching close in their rear?

Answer.—I never did—but I have frequently heard them say that they had halted for the mounted dragoons to come up with them, boasting that they could out march the mounted dragoons.—I have frequently heard complaints of soreness of feet and want of Shoes, but never of being marched too fast, or too far, except in one instance when the Qt. Master, capt Brook, reported that the command could not be accommodated at the proposed halting place, and it had to march several miles further.—That night they complained a good deal of fatigue.—When the soldiers are about my shop or waggon, they are in the habit of speaking with freedom of all their grievances, and if they had have complained of being made to march too fast, it is more than probable that I should have heard it—but I never did.

Question.—You say that you have frequently heard complaints of sore feet and want of shoes.—Did lieut. col. Ball ever take any pains or use any means to supply that want of shoes?

Answer.—Yes, I have heard Mr. Fuller who is my partner say, that he was particularly instructed by lieut. col. Ball, to procure a supply of shoes for the dismounted dragoons, upon the march;—and that lieut. col. Ball had advanced him money for that purpose, and he Mr. Fuller did leave the command for that purpose, and did procure shoes for them. I never heard a soldier complain of an act of cruelty in lieut. col. Ball.

JOSIAH PATTERSON.

Personally appeared before me, Jeremiah Riggs Esq. one of the Justices of the peace for Ontario County state of New-York, Josiah Patterson and made oath to the questions hereon contained.

Sworn before me at Avon, 3d March 1815.

JEREMIAH RIGGS J.P.

[J]
JOHN PARRIS.

Question—Were you a trumpeter to capt. Hall's troop, of Lt. col. Ball's squadron, during its march from Lake George to Champion, in New York?

Answer—Yes.

Question—Do you recollect that the dismounted were always marched off from each halting place, a considerable time before the mounted Dragoons marched?

Answer—Yes, generally a sufficient length of time for them to get five or six miles ahead.

Question—Do you, or do you not, recollect that whenever the dismounted were overtaken by the mounted Dragoons, that the gait of the latter was always slackened?

Answer—Yes, invariably: and I recollect perfectly the exertions of lieut. col. Ball to get off the dismounted Dragoons from the various halting points, and that he never would permit me to sound "Boots and Saddles," until after they had marched as above stated.

Question—Did you ever hear any of the dismounted Dragoons say that they marched faster, after they were overtaken by the mounted Dragoons, than they had done before they were overtaken? and if it had been a cause of complaint amongst them, do you not believe you would have heard it?

Answer—I never heard such a complaint, and if it had been made, I am positive I should have heard it.

Question—Do you, or do you not, recollect that the dismounted arrived at the established halting points, before they were overtaken by the mounted Dragoons, in several instances.

Answer—Yes, I remember many places at which we halted, both at noon and night, where the dismounted arrived before they were overtaken by mounted Dragoons.

JOHN PARRIS, *Trumpet Major*.

Personally appeared before me Jeremiah Riggs Esq. one of the Justices of the peace for Ontario County, state of New-York, John Parris, and made oath to the within.

Sworn at Avon 22d February 1815.

JEREMIAH RIGGS J. P.

[K]
QUARTER MASTER SERGEANT ROWLAND.

Question—Did you join lieut. col. Ball's squadron at Lake George, in August or September last, and march with it to Black Rock?

Answer—I joined it at Lake George in September, 1814, and marched with it to Buffalo.

Question—Do you know that the dismounted Dragoons were

always moved off in the morning and after the noon halt, a considerable time before the mounted part of the command marched?

Answer.—The dismounted Dragoons were always moved off such a length of time before the mounted men, as was calculated to bring them near the halting point before the mounted men overtook them.—The distance at which the mounted overtook the dismounted men from the encamping ground varied from one to four or five miles—but sometimes the dismounted men arrived at the encamping ground before they were overtaken.

Question.—Were there established depots on the road at which only we could draw provisions for the corps?

Answer.—There were established depots at unequal distances, and it was necessary to make each of these within the number of days for which we had drawn at the preceding depot.

Question.—Did you march with the dismounted dragoons until you reached Champion?

Answer.—I did

Question.—Did you ever hear the dismounted men complain of their being too much pressed or urged on, at an improper gait, by the mounted men being in their rear?

Answer.—Never

Question.—Did you ever know an instance of cruelty in lieutenant. Ball to his men on a march or elsewhere?

Answer.—I never did, nor did I ever hear a soldier complain of ill treatment from him?

Question.—Have provisions of good quality (with the exception of a few articles of small rations) been regularly and punctually supplied to the troops at Avon?

Answer.—Yes—the only complaint that I have heard was about some bread that was badly baked, and as soon as it was shown to the Colonel, the Contractor was sent for, who agreed to take it back,—but upon examination made by Sergeant Jones, a small quantity, only, of it was found to be bad, and he reported that the men preferred keeping it, with an allowance of flour which the Contractor agreed to make?

Question. Has the full allowance of forage of an excellent quality (with the exception of a small quantity of hay) been regularly supplied?

Answer. Yes,—except a few days immediately after our arrival here—when the allowance was not entirely full.

Question. Do you know that lieutenant. Ball's house, in consequence of want of plank, is yet unfinished, and that he moved into it in its unfinished state, on the same day that captain. Harris' troop moved into their finished barracks?

Answer. Yes—and not more than one or two days before the whole of the squadron moved in?

Question. What proportion does the barracks of the field and staff, including the hospital and guard-house, bear to the whole line of barracks?

Answer. Exclusive of the Adjutants house they bear a proportion of precisely one third?

ALEXANDER ROWLAND,
Quarter-Master Sergeant Lt. Dragoons.

Personally appeared before me Jeremiah Riggs Esq. one of the Justices of the peace for Ontario County, state of New-York, Alexander Rowland and made oath to the questions hereon contained.

Sworn before me at Avon this 20th of February 1815.

JEREMIAH RIGGS, J. P.

[L]

SERGEANT WILLIAM ELDRIDGE.

Question. Were you a sergeant in the detachment of dismounted Dragoons, that marched under lieut. col. Ball from Lake George to Watertown, New York, in Sept, 1814?

Answer. Yes.

Question. Were, or were not, the dismounted always marched off first,—and did, or did not, they get a considerable distance from their several halting places, before they were overtaken by the mounted Dragoons?

Answer. Yes, and often we arrived at our halting places before the mounted overtook the dismounted Dragoons.

Question. When the mounted overtook the dismounted Dragoons upon the march, were the dismounted Dragoons constrained to march faster than they had marched before they were overtaken?

Answer. No,—sometimes when they saw the mounted dragoons coming up, they would increase their gait with a view of making their encampment at an early hour.

Question. Did you ever hear a soldier complain of an act of cruelty in lieut. col. Ball?

Answer. I have heard a man by the name of Hooker complain that his feet were blistered, and that he thought they were marched too far in a day, and I have heard some others complain in the same way, most of them boys.—I have never heard of an act of cruelty in lieut. col. Ball.

Question. When the men complained as stated above, were they permitted to ride in the waggons?

Answer. Whenever there was room in the waggons, the men complaining in that way were always permitted to ride.

WILLIAM ELDRIDGE, Serg't.

Personally appeared before me Jeremiah Riggs Esq. one of the Justices of the peace for Ontario County, State of New York, William Eldridge and made oath to the questions hereon contained.

Sworn before me at Avon, 22d Feb. 1815.

JEREMIAH RIGGS, J. P.

[M]

" Cantonment, Avon, 5th March, 1815.
SQUADRON ORDERS.

" Commissioned Officers are required to visit the stables of their respective troops, as frequently as is necessary to the observance of a good police,—and at such intervals as they may deem necessary to insure this valuable object, all important to give efficacy and character to the corps. In the service of every nation in the world, competent to the raising and maintaining of a regular army, a primary object has been, to induce non-commissioned officers to feel that respect due their characters from those of inferior rank; properly to estimate the importance of the various duties committed to them, and rightly to appreciate the high responsibility of their stations. These objects effected, the burthen of all is diminished, and system and harmony are the consequences; but when it is made the duty of commissioned officers to travel out of their own, and invade the spheres of non-commissioned officers,—confusion, contempt for the authority of both, numberless collisions, degradation, and a variety of deleterious effects must necessarily result;—some of these are unhappily but too discoverable in this squadron at the present moment, deducible no doubt from the conflict of duty and authority above complained of. To remedy this evil, officers cannot be too particular in exacting from non-commissioned officers, a punctual discharge of their respective duties, while, by their own dignity of conduct and deportment, they will exemplify the propriety of proper sense of subordination. Man being prone to imitation, will learn every thing faster from example than precept. In future, after the parade is formed and marched to the stables, the dismissal of the men will be at the discretion of the sergeants of their respective squads, after the proper signal of the trumpet, and hence a formal dismissal on parade is dispensed with.

(Signed)

SAMUEL G. HOPKINS, Capt. Comd'g.

[n]

" Camp, Genessee River, 22d Nov. 1814.
DRAGOONS ORDERS.

" The detachment having arrived on the ground at which it will canton for the winter, every other duty and consideration except guard-mounting, and a regular attention to *watering* and *feeding*, will yield to the important matter of putting the men and horses under cover with the least possible delay. The commanding officers of troops are charged with the erection of the stables and huts of their respective troops, upon the ground assigned them by the Qr. Master;—the size, manner, and form which has been prescribed, by the lieut col., will be observed in

the buildings. The Qr. Master will issue the tools on hand, in proportion to the strength of the troops respectively;—reserving those to be used for the field and staff of the detachment, and take the necessary receipts for them: Six panes of glass will be allowed to each barrack-room, having regard to the war-office regulations. The commanding officer derives much pleasure from the hope and belief that the utmost exertion of every member of his command will be used to effect this object, so important to the interest of the service, and the comfort and credit of the corps; and here takes occasion to assure the gentlemen of this detachment, that his official and individual aid will at all times be given with pleasure and alacrity. In future, no officer will leave camp except to attend the working parties, but by special permission of the commanding officer. The Qr. Master in the discharge of his duty, is exempt from this restriction. Privates Romer and Ritter, of capt. Harris's troop, confined for being absent from camp without leave, and attempting to rob the citizens of potatoes—Bell of capt. Hopkins' and King of capt. Hall's troop, confined for a breach of the commanding officers orders, in leaving camp without a written permission, are released;—and the Lt. col. pledges himself, that the first non-commissioned officer or soldier guilty of a similar offence, or in any way acting derogatory to the credit of the detachment, will be punished in the most exemplary manner.

[Signed]

JAMES V. BALL, Lt. Col. by brevet Comd'g.

[o]

I certify on honor, that six thousand rations of soap, over and above their legal demand, have been furnished to the troops under the command of Lt. col Ball, at Avon, N Y;—And that when I first began to supply the said troops, it was not in my power to furnish all the small rations, and that while it was the case, I have been frequently sent for by Lt. col. Ball, and admonished by him on that subject, with the most earnest requests to use my exertions to procure and furnish them, and that he refused to sign my abstracts, until he saw me settle with, & give my due-bill, through my agent, to his Qr. Master for the deficiencies. Given under my hand this 21st day of February, 1815:

JEREMIAH RIGGS, Late Contractors Agent.

[Q]

“January 1st, 1815, 9 o'clock A. M.

To Lieut. Col. JAMES V. BALL, Commanding Dragoons.

SIR—As an officer I address you; yesterday I received thirty stripes on my bare buttocks, by order of Lieut Anspach, without any trial of a Court Martial. This sort of punishment would not have been inflicted by order of your honor. Your punishment corrects, without enraging the culprit. As a man of humanity, and as an officer, the laws of your country will incite you to examine into this affair. I care not to have the affair enquired into, any further than to have the abuse corrected;—a regular court-martial does not enrage the prisoner;—it corrects him!

JOHN ROBERTSON,

Private in Capt. Hopkins' Troop.

[U]

“Dragoon Camp, Plattsburg, 14th July, 1814.

SIR—I have taken the liberty to enclose you two communications from capt. Haig upon the subject of his troop. The force and accuracy of the Captain's observations relative to the necessity of the vigilant eye of the officer, for the welfare of his horses, must at once strike you. Light detach-

F

ments of Dragoons, unrestrained by the presence of an officer, view their tour as a party of pleasure, and ride, neglect, and abuse their horses without mercy : particularly when in pursuit of deserters, because if bounds are set them, their limits are greater. The detached Orderly's of whom he speaks is another serious injury to the corps—they acquire no other habits than those of a waiter, and an indolence which excludes all disposition to return to their duty in the line. Will you permit me General, here to ask the favor of you to define the duties of those Orderly's, as I have been told by a gentleman in the adjutant generals department, that whenever detailed, I have no right to order them, even as relates to the necessary care of their horses. If that was the case, Sir, few Dragoon officers would willingly become responsible for their Cavalry.

I beg Sir, you will not think me disposed to be unnecessarily troublesome, I assure you that nothing but an ardour for the service, and a desire for an equal opportunity in the field, could have induced me to have tresspassed thus upon your time.

I am, &c.

JAMES V. BALL, Lt. Col. Comd'g, Dragoons.

His Excellency, Maj. Gen. GEO. IZARD."

[R]

"Greensburg, (Pa.) 15th May, 1815.

"Having been desired to answer certain questions relative to the conduct of lieut. col. James V. Ball of the U. S. Light Dragoons, I have to make the following statement of facts—it will exhibit answers to the interrogatories so far as I am present able to recollect the circumstances.

I was on guard during a part of the night preceding the battle at the Missisnewa on the 18th Dec. 1812—and was relieved by capt. Butler, between two and three o'clock, as well as I remember. During the time I commanded the guard, Major Ball, officer of the day visited the guard house repeatedly—admonished us to be on the alert, that from every appearance we would be attacked before morning, and appeared during the night to be vigilant and attentive to provide against a surprise.

Soon after the action began, col. Campbell came to me at the right of my company—and said "these Dragoons of capt. Hopkins' will give way unless they are reinforced." I answered the colonel by proposing to march to the assistance of the Dragoons, and whilst speaking, major Ball came up and enquired for capt. Butler's guard. Col. Campbell immediately left me, and in company with major Ball, passed along the line towards the right of capt. Butler's company, who immediately marched across the camp to where capt. Hopkins was stationed. Major Ball soon after told me he had taken capt. Butler's company in preference to mine, because capt. Butler's men were armed with muskets and bayonets, and mine with rifles—and because he calculated the firing with buck-shot would be of more service to us, than with a single ball.

After the firing had abated considerably at that part of the camp, to which capt. Butler had been ordered, and about day light, major Ball passed in rear of my company, towards the right flank of the camp, he was followed by some Dragoons of Col. Simrals regiment. Some person with the Dragoons asked, "where shall we form," major Ball turned round in his stirrups and said, I think nearly as follows "come on my lads I'll form you." He rode a few paces further, and repeated his call. I am the more particular in this, owing to my having had a conversation soon after on the subject.

I do not remember to have seen Major Ball again until after the firing had ceased.

The diligence, and care, and skill with which Major Ball had prepared for the expedition, had impressed me with a favorable opinion of his military talents. And I assert without hesitation, that the skill, industry, vigilance and humanity invariably to be noticed in his conduct, during our advance into the enemy's country, during the action, so far as I witnessed it, and have it by information, and on our return, convinced me I had not misplaced my confidence. And if any thing had been wanting to have firmly established major Ball in my opinion, I would have found it in the general and implicit confidence reposed in him by the troops after the action.

The communication of lieut. Fullerton, the then adjutant of Major Ball's squadron, furnished by my request, is more explicit than I can pretend to be. And I can only add that the conduct of Col. Ball during the siege of Fort Meigs, and particularly on the 5th of May 1813, was such as to add to the good character he had acquired amongst his brother officers. And I never heard that Col. Ball had done any act to deprive him of the elevated reputation he enjoyed, as I believed meritoriously, until within a late period that I have been called on to testify in his behalf.

J. B. ALEXANDER.

[s]

“Westmoreland County, (Pa.) 12th May, 1815.

“SIR,—Having given you an account of the affair near Lower Sandusky in my letter of the 8th inst. I will proceed to state some facts to which I was personally a witness, on the other subjects of your letter of the 7th.

Lt: Col. Ball, (then major) came to Franklinton in October 1812, where he had been assigned the command of some troops of militia and volunteer Cavalry. His first conflict was with the prejudices and antipathies of volunteers to regular officers. These he had the address, in a great measure soon to overcome. A secret expedition was said to be proposed. His next object was to organize, train, and equip his command for active service: He appointed some staff officers, not such as were acquainted with the duties of their appointments, but such of the volunteers as he could induce to accept. His squadron he ordered to be daily drilled, fatigue parties were put upon duty, to cut wood, dig coal pits, prepare horse shoes, make ammunition chests, cartridges, &c. &c. Scarcely an article of a public kind was to be had at that time without the greatest exertion. Some public arms &c: however, soon arrived and the detachment moved from Franklinton on the 25th November. At Xenia we were met by Capt. Hopkins's Troop U. States Light Dragoons; here old prejudices again began to shew themselves, but owing to col. Ball's mild, and persuasive method of treating the subject he got them again quieted without resorting to harsh measures. The troops composing this Squadron, had been hastily collected together from the States of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee and the Territory of Michigan, and consisted of six and twelve months volunteers and militia, and regular troops, and of course were in a great measure unacquainted with each others manners and customs, and the whole were yet to be instructed in the rules and discipline of camp;—the arduous task of which devolved on colonel Ball. Indeed his whole conduct from the commencement to the end of the expedition, was one continual scene of exertion, and indefatigable perseverance. In the first place he had to procure horses to mount some of the volunteers, then swords, pistols, rifles, muskets, the ammunition which was to be made into cartridges, nor of this was he furnished with a sufficiency. What medicines, hospital stores and surgeons instruments we had, were of his procuring;—in fact nothing was neglected that

could be had. He recommended and induced some of the volunteers to procure axes &c. of their own, as those that had been imposed on the public were of the most worthless kind. Notwithstanding all this, there was still a great deficiency.

The other particulars relative to the march are perhaps as well known to yourself as to me.

On the morning of the 17th December 1812, shortly before the attack on the Indian Town, I was sent by Col. Ball to Col. Campbell, to enquire how he should form his squadron. Col. Campbell directed Col. Ball to dress by him.—The yelling and firing soon after commenced on the left, Ball's squadron being on the right, had to perform a circuitous route thro' the woods; he bro't them round at full speed, and formed with their right on the river, facing the town. The firing we now discovered to be at cattle, and a few fugitives attempting to make their escape. On this occasion Lieut. Col. Ball caused the orders relative to the plunder to be obeyed, with the most scrupulous exactness, throughout his squadron.

It was near dark when I was called on to furnish our portion of the guard for the night; and owing to fatigue, loss of sleep, and frosted feet, particularly of Capt. Hopkins's men, it was very late before our detail could be furnished. Col. Ball being officer of the day, (of which I believe he was not informed until about the time the guard was called for) made every exertion to have them placed with the least possible delay; and visited the guard and centinels during the night more frequently than was usual; and on his return to his fire, told his messmates that he had little doubt, but we would have some "popping before morning." And told me, as I had been taking a nap during the day, I should set up by our fire to be the better prepared, in case of an attack.—His orders were, that one of each mess should also be up to awake the others; this duty the soldiers were to perform by turns. The advantages of this arrangement were made manifest about 2 o'clock in the morning, when a gun was discharged: every man was at his post in an instant. He had also gave directions, in case of alarm, to extinguish the fires, and form the line ten paces in their rear. And in the morning before he ordered the revellie to be beat, sent me along the whole line of our squadron, to have every officer and soldier standing at his arms; while he informed me he was performing the like duty with the other troops of the detachment.

Shortly after the revellie, Ball and Markle were summoned to Col. Campbell. They had not been long absent until the attack commenced; Col. Ball's voice was soon heard giving orders on the right of the squadron. He soon passed along the line to the left, admonishing his men to behave coolly and deliberately; to pay strict attention to the leveling of their pieces and not waste their ammunition unnecessarily. About day-break I discovered that a part of the line, occupied by Capt. Markle, was very much thinned, from the number of wounded, and a few that were employed in carrying them back. I went with the information to Col. Ball; was directed to where he was, by hearing his voice, demanding a troop to charge the enemy. Capt. Trotter with a part of his troop followed him across the encampment, towards Markle, where he was joined by Capt. Markle, and such of his men & Warrens, as could be mounted, for which he had previously given orders.

I was not with Col. Ball when he called for Capt. Butler's guard, or when he marched Butler's company to reinforce our line. Nor was I present when he procured cartridges from Lieut. Gwinn for Capt. Hopkins's men. But I always understood that it was Ball that procured both the men and ammunition. I heard it asserted very frequently, but never heard it denied, or heard of any other officer claiming the merit of these transactions.

After the action col. Ball distributed every particle of Coffee, Sugar &c. among the wounded, and also divided his bacon and biscuit with them, and gave a portion of it to other officers and soldiers that were in want, by which acts of generosity he had none for himself, before he returned to Greenville.

I never saw nor heard of col. Ball before October 1812, nor have I seen him since the month of August 1813, nor do I know that I ever shall see him again.—But during the ten months of our acquaintance I saw nothing but what tended to convince me, that he was an officer of the greatest vigilance and courage, and a gentleman of the most strict justice and honesty which, added to his humane and generous disposition, made the most severe hardships be borne with a degree of patience and cheerfulness, that could scarcely be expected from troops of the description he had to command.

I am &c.

HUMPHREY FULLERTON.

JOHN B. ALEXANDER, Esq.
Greensburgh.

[T]

Frankfort Ky. April 4, 1813.

DEAR MAJOR,

I arrived here several days ago, and, as you may naturally conclude, have not been an inattentive observer of the truly ludicrous and farcical scene now acting in the capital. The Court of enquiry is in session, but most gladly would the inculpaters rejoice at its dissolution.—They have merited and received a castigation, at once so complete and severe, that I presume their Military ambition and talents will, in virtue of its remembrance, be henceforth entirely annihilated.—So far from any charge being proved true, they have completely absorbed the whole tissue and black list in feeble and abortive attempts to shield themselves; no longer resting their defence upon the conviction of their commander, they attempt to consume the whole time of the Court in apologising for their cowardice and disorder; and as to the procurement of a fight out of any of them it were as possible as for a frail mortal to change the current of the Kentucky River to an opposite direction, or shake the foundation of one of those lofty and romantic cliffs which environ this metropolis.—The whole proceeding will come out in a pamphlet: And you shall have a copy for your own special amusement.

I have been very much flattered by the many polite and pleasing attentions with which I have been honored since my arrival in Kentucky, in consequence of what my countrymen are pleased to term my good conduct at Massissinway." Be assured my dear sir, I have not failed to do you justice, and on all occasions to ascribe to your vigilance and bravery the redemption of many souls from death. Col. C—ll, Col. S—ll & Major S—ll, are low indeed in public estimation: I am sorry I could not aid them in the restoration of their wonted fame.—My lips however are closed in relation to them, determining not to loan my name at any time to the ignominious work of destroying reputation. I this day dined with the old hero of Kings Mountain, and at his special request, laid off the plan of our encampment, line and manner of battle.—He was much gratified at what he termed your coolness and judgment in the conflict, and general precaution on the Campaign.—You stand higher with him than any body else. And you may rely upon it I did not permit the residue of the squadron to suffer by a comparison with our companions in arms, many of whom have attempted to

exalt themselves far beyond the elevation that nature intended for them.—The court of enquiry will not adjourn in three or four days to come.—My Father having to go to the City of Washington immediately, thinks it indispensable to the protection of my private matters, that I should go to Henderson. For God's sake Major let me hear from you immediately, and if possible extend my leave of absence until the 10th May; direct your letter to Henderson, (Ky.) Remember in this request that all things must bend to my duties as an officer, and if it is improper to grant it, or if there is a probability of our being called into service sooner than I expect, I should be the last man in the Army to wish the indulgence.—My old Sweet-hearts and friends all greet me with smiles. It will be like tearing the soul from the body to leave them again.—My doom however is fixed and irrevocable.—“Beds of down and essence of roses” must be resigned for the cold earth and the fumes of brimstone.

Your friend most truly,

S. G. HOPKINS.

MAJOR BALL,

ERRATA

Page 6—19th line of the letter address'd to Col. Monroe for “Colonels”
read *Colonel*

7—See appendix A—read *a a.*
for *hulls*—read *huts.*

21—*Dele*—the reference.

35—9th line for *one* read *the*:

36th line—for *there* read *then*:

53—In Appendix I for 1815 read 1814.

58 In Do.—(n) first line, transpose the words *on* and *at*.

59—In Do.—(Q) 5th line *dele* the word *of*.

